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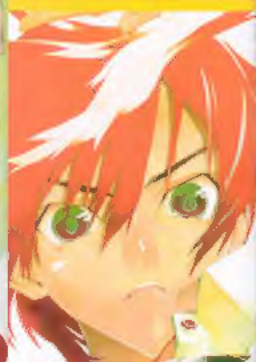

屍鬼
新連載67P

JANUARY 2008
1
SHUEISHA

The second new series to commemorate the new magazine – 67 pages!

創刊記念新連載第2弾67P

It began during a dreadfully intense "summer"---

凄烈なる「夏」が開幕する

屍鬼

Shiki

Original work / Ono Fuyumi　　Manga / Fujisaki, Ryuu

原作/小野不由美　漫画/藤崎竜

Adapted from "Shi-ki" published by Shinchou Bunko Kan

プロローグ

PROLOGUE

* T/N: SHIKI MEANS CORPSE DEMON

I REALLY HATE THIS VILLAGE!!!
Year 199X Fierce Heat
199X年猛暑

村人ファイルNo.1
清水恵(15)
Villager File No. 1
Shimizu Megumi (15)

AS YOU CAN SEE, THERE'S NO-THING HERE AT ALL!!

AS MUCH AS IT KILLS ME TO ADMIT IT, I WAS BORN AND RAISED IN THIS PLACE KNOWN AS SOTOBA!!

NOT EVEN THE TRAIN RUNS HERE!?

THE VILLAGE IS SHAPED LIKE A LONG, THIN TRIANGLE, AND THE ONLY ROAD THAT JOINS IT TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD IS A SLIP OFF FROM THE ONE AND ONLY NATIONAL HIGHWAY NEARBY. THIS IS WHAT THEY CALL A SUPER-RURAL VILLAGE ENCLOSED BY MOUNTAINS!! THE POPULATION IS 1300!!

←国道

YOU'RE ALL DRESSED UP. ARE YOU GOING OUT?

MY, OH MY. YOU'RE STILL IN HIGH SCHOOL, BUT YOU'VE REALLY GROWN INTO A LADY.

OH HELLO, MEGUMI-CHAN.

OH, YES. HAVE YOU HEARD?

THE JIZO SHRINE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE VILLAGE WAS DESTROYED...

AH, I'M IN A HURRY, BYE!

T/N: JIZO IS A GUARDIAN DEITY OF CHILDREN.

THEN, I'LL BE SCOUTED INTO THE SHOW BUSINESS, AND HANG OUT AT CLUBS EVERY NIGHT.

WHO CARES ABOUT JIZO OR WHATEVER!! I WANT TO GET OUT OF HERE!!!

ONCE I GRADUATE FROM HIGH SCHOOL, I'M DEFINITELY GOING TO A UNIVERSITY IN *THE CITY!!!*

THEY'RE LIKE *ID-10000 0000 0000 OTS!!!*

IT'S JUST FALLEN STONES, ISN'T IT?

IT'S THIS, HUH.

THESE VILLAGERS HAVE TOO MUCH SPARE TIME... THEY'RE GOSSIPING ABOUT IT LIKE IT'S SUCH A BIG DEAL...

IT MUST HAVE BEEN THE SON OF THE BOTTLE SHOP OWNER...

THE STONE MONUMENT AT THE 3RD BRIDGE TOO...

THE JIZO SHRINE IN THE VILLAGE...

IT COULD BE THAT OUT-SIDER...

AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, THERE ARE ONLY TWO THINGS OF IMPORTANCE IN THIS VILLAGE.

HOWEVER, THOSE PEOPLE MOVED OUT ALL OF A SUDDEN, AND AFTER THAT, A HUGE STONE CASTLE SPRUNG UP IN ITS PLACE.

A LONG TIME AGO, THIS USED TO BE THE RESIDENCE OF A ONCE VERY POWERFUL MAN IN THE VILLAGE NAMED KANEMASA.

THESE VILLAGERS, THEY SIMPLY DON'T COMPREHEND THIS STYLE, AND SO, THEY JUSTIFY THEMSELVES BY FINDING FAULTS WITH IT.

STILL, IT DOESN'T MATCH THE VILLAGE AT ALL.

IT'S BEEN COMPLETED FOR MONTHS, YET NOBODY'S MOVED IN YET.

THAT OLD THING NEEDS TO BE TORN DOWN.

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IT'S SO COOL...

--I REALLY WANT TO VISIT THAT HOUSE.

--WHEN WILL SOMEONE MOVE IN, I WONDER?

--I WANT TO GO THERE.

THAT'S ONE OF THE TWO THINGS WHICH HOLD ANY MEANING— KANEMASA'S HOUSE.

--THE SECOND IS...

村人ファイルNo 2 結城(小出)夏野(15)

V llager Fi e No 2 Yuuk (Koide) Natsuno (15)

NATSUNO, TAKING A BREAK?

I HEARD THAT HIS PARENTS PREFERRED TO ...IVE IN THE COUNTRYSIDE SO THEY CAME ...TO SOTOBA

(MAKES ZERO SENSE, I KNOW)

THAT'S YUUKI NATSUNO, (15) HE'S IN THE SAME GRADE AS ME.

HE MOVED HERE FROM THE CITY, LAST YEAR HE'S AN OUTSIDER 'SO TO SPEAK

COULD HE HAVE NOTICED THAT I WAS HERE WATCHING HIM?

YUUKI-KUN...

BUT..

NAH...

NO WAY.

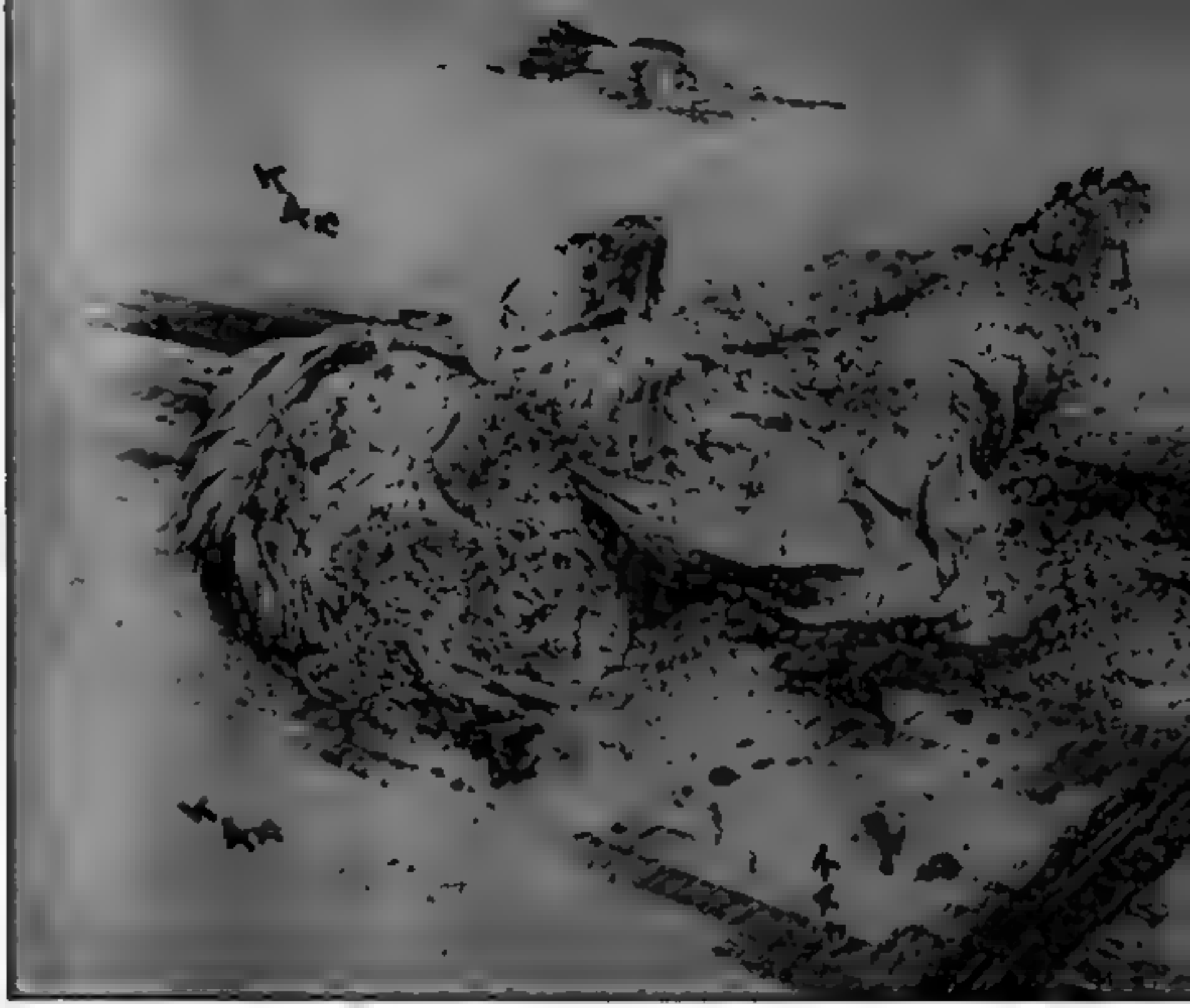
THAT CAN'T BE IT, HUH.

6th August Saturday Butsumetsu

午後 外場 山入地区

TN: 仏滅 (BUTSUMETSU) MEANS UNLUCKY ALL DAY

(TEXT ON POLICE LINE) NO ENTRY PLEASE DO NOT CROSS.



対人ファイルNo.3

YOU WERE THE ONE WHO DISCOVERED THE BODIES?
WE'D LIKE TO ASK YOU A FEW QUESTIONS

THIS MORNING, I WENT TO UPPER SOTOBA FOR A RELATIVE OF THE PERSON WHO LIVES IN THIS HOUSE, WHO'D JUST PASSED AWAY

AH, YES, YES.

THAT'S WHAT I HEARD

LET'S SEE MR. GOTOUDA SHUUJI, RIGHT?

HIS SUMMER COLD GOT WORSE, HUH.

Villager File No.4 Gotouda Shuuji (39)

村人ファイルNo.4 後藤田秀司(39)

YES.

I WAS ANXIOUS, AND WENT NEXT DOOR TO BORROW A PHONE FROM THEIR NEIGHBOR, MR. OOKAWA..

THAT'S WHEN I DISCOVERED MDM MIEKO AND MR. SHUUZOU HAD ALREADY DIED.

YES.

THEREAFTER, I PERFORMED HIS FIRST RITES*, AND TRIED TO CONTACT HIS RELATIVES OVER HERE AT YAMAIRI. BUT, I COULDN'T GET THROUGH.

BUT, MR OOKAWA, TOO..

SO, YOU CAME PERSONALLY

TN: MAKURAGYOU IS THE RITES SPOKEN BY A PRIEST IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE DEATH OF THE PERSON. I DON'T KNOW HOW TO TRANSLATE IT SO I'LL CALL IT FIRST RITES. FOR LACK OF A BETTER WORD.

...EXCUSE ME... WHAT WAS THE CAUSE OF DEATH?

DO YOU HAPPEN TO SEE ANY OF THE OBVIOUS STRANGE AROUND?

I DID NOT

AH

THERE WERE NO SIGNS OF SHARP EDGE TRAUMA BUT THERE ARE MISSING PARTS SO WE THOUGHT IT COULD HAVE BEEN ALSO BY STRAY DOGS

ACCORDING TO THE AUTOPSY WAS MURDERED BY NATURAL CAUSES

THE TIME TWO BODIES HAD FALLEN APART FROM EXTERNAL DECOMPOSITION SO WE WERE DETERMINED THE CAUSE

STRAY

STRAY DOGS?

YEAH

THERE'S BEEN QUITE A NUMBER OF THEM AROUND HERE LATELY

Villager File No.8
Ozaki Toshio
Director of Ozaki Hospital
Seishin's childhood friend

THIS KIND OF HEAT IS REALLY TOUGH ON THE OLD FOLKS.

BUT, I'M A LITTLE RELIEVED TO HEAR THE CAUSE OF DEATH WAS NATURAL.

TOSHIO. FOUR PEOPLE DIED HERE, IN A MATTER OF DAYS SO, I THOUGHT THERE WAS SOMETHING GOING ON.

I WAS PRESENT AT THE AUTOPSY.

I STILL CAN'T SMELL A THING.

...THAT MEANS.

BUT, NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT, IT SEEMS THE OLD LADY DIED MUCH LATER THAN THE TWO OLD MEN.

IN OTHER WORDS, HOW MANY DAYS DID THAT OLD LADY, MIEKO, LIVE WITH THE CORPSE IN HER HOUSE?

INTERESTING, ISN'T IT?

TAKE 2:51 (TOMOBIKI MEANS GOOD LUCK ALL DAY, EXCEPT AT NOON.

Villager File No.9
Tanaka Kaori (15)
Megumi's childhood friend

LET'S GO TO SCHOOL---!

OR I'LL LEAVE YOU BEHIND!!!

MEGUMI-CHA~~~N!

8th August, Monday.
Tomobiki, First day of autumn

KAORI, THE MIDDLE SCHOOL IS IN THE VILLAGE. YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO SO EARLY RIGHT?

WE DON'T HAVE TO LEAVE TOGETHER, YOU KNOW

HUMPF

WHY DO I HAVE TO PATRONIZE HER? SHE'S SO RUSTIC THAT I JUST WANT TO TELL HER I DON'T WANT TO BE SEEN WALKING WITH *YOU!!!*

IT'S FINE DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT I WANT TO DO SOME LESSON PREP TOO, SO IT'S FINE!

AHH--STOP THERE I'VE HEARD!

THE VILLAGE IS FULL OF OLD PEOPLE SO IT'S NO SURPRISE WE HAVE SO MANY DEAD PEOPLE!!

SO WHAT?!

シュッ

ANYWAY, MEGUMI-CHAN, HAVE YOU HEARD?

THE YOUNG PRIEST OF THE TEMPLE FOUND 3 *DEAD PEOPLE* IN YAMAIR!!!

KAORI! *KAORI!!!!!*

YEAH.

BUT, AKIRA WAS REALLY DISRE-SPECTFUL!

JUST A WEE BIT.

LOOK!! IT'S INCREDIBLE!!
THE THING THAT HAPPENED IN YAMAIRI MADE IT TO THE NEWS!!!

THAT'S ENOUGH---!!!
AAAAAAHHH!!!

!

WELL THEN, GOOD BYE! I'M CATCHING THE BUS!!!
AHH, OKAY
BYE..

WHA, WHAT'S THE MATTER?
IT'S NOTHING! NOBODY UNDERSTANDS WHATEVER I'M TALKING ABOUT ANYWAY!!!

--YUUKI-KUN!!!

I HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE!!

OUT OF THIS VILLAGE!!!

GOOD MORNING, YUUKI-KUN!

ｱｯ

YOU'RE LOOKING TOWARDS THE SOUTH AGAIN, AREN'T YOU?

THE DIRECTION OF THE CITY.

--AWW~

IGNORING ME AGAIN?

YUUKI-KUN, YOU SEEM TO HATE ME FOR SOME REASON, DON'T YOU?

---THERE SHE GOES AGAIN

ALWAYS LIKE THIS

SHE'S EXPECTING ME TO REGURGITATE THE USUAL CRAP HUH?

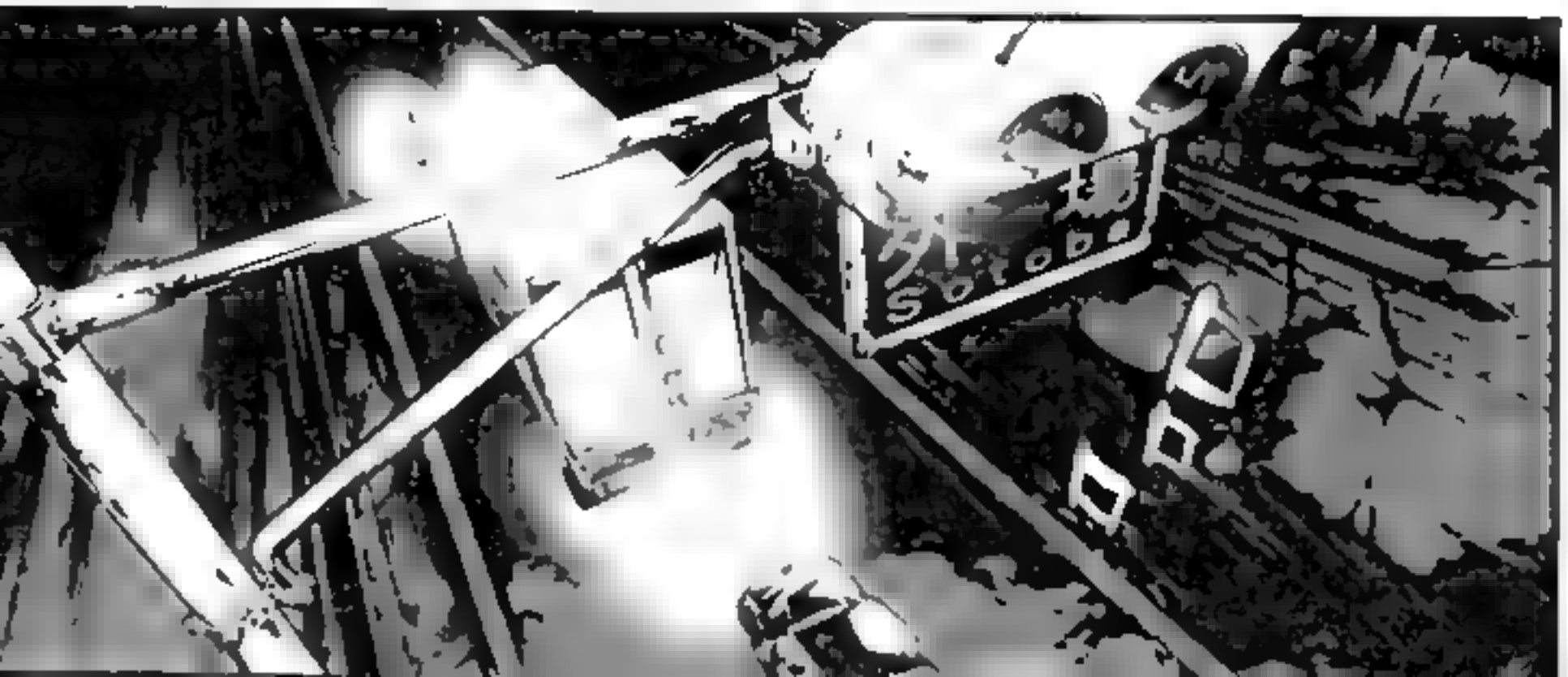
I HATE THIS GIRL.

BUT, "I WANT TO LEAVE FOR THE CITY."

THAT ONE SENTENCE IS THE ONLY THING SHIMIZU AND I HAVE IN COMMON...

THE 4 IS (SEINSEU) MEANS BAD LUCK IN THE MORNING GOOD LUCK IN THE AFTERNOON

(WRITING ON TRUCK) MOVING COMPANY



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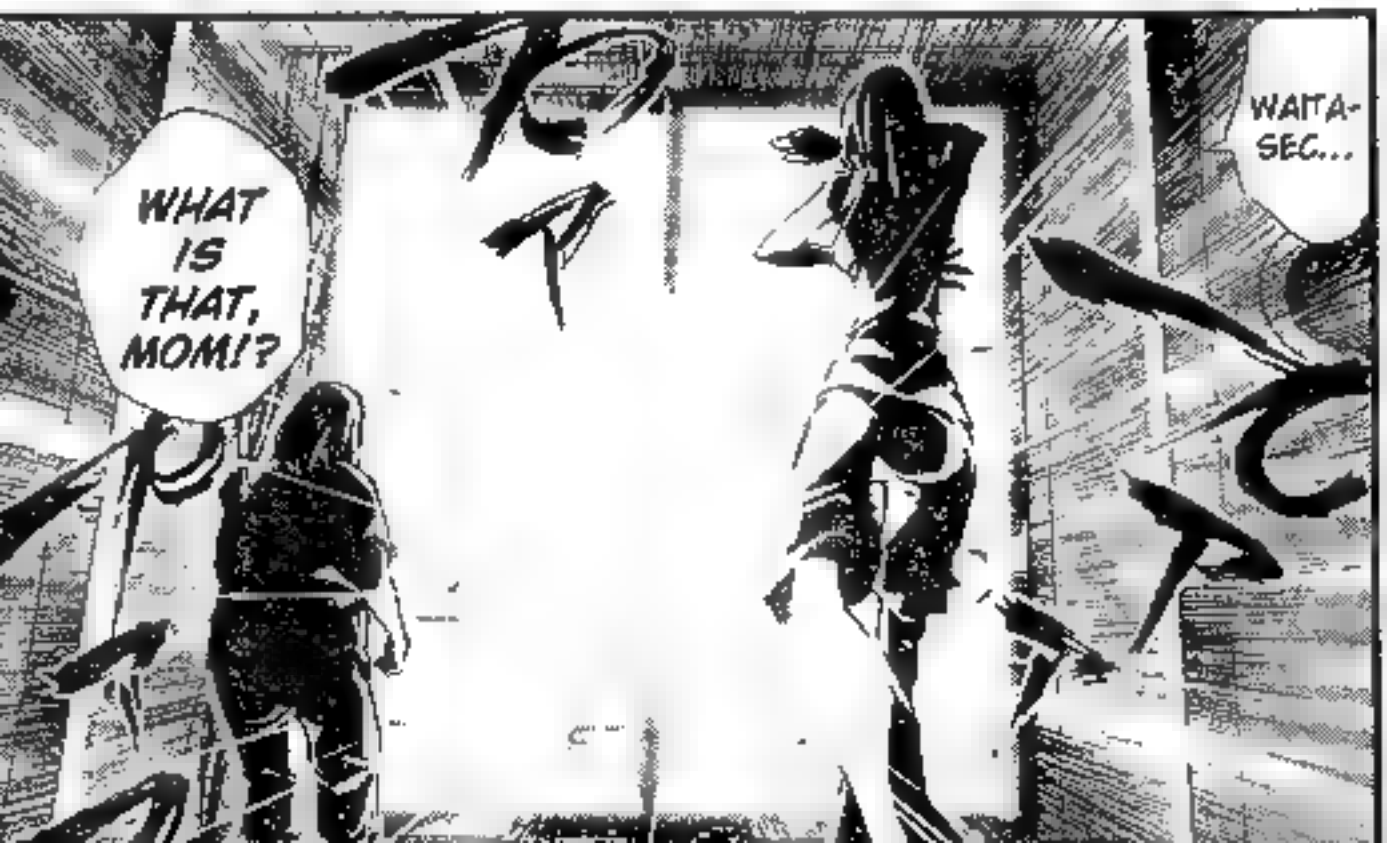
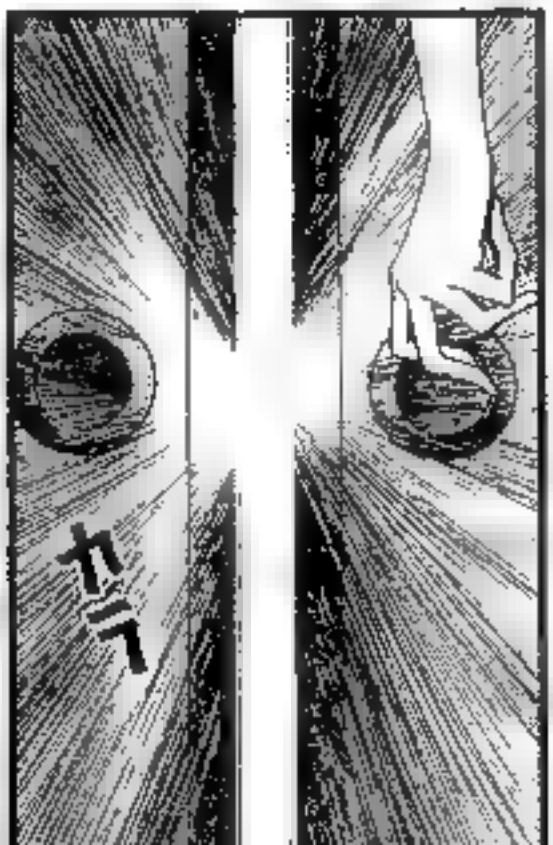

WHAT IS THAT, MOM!?
WAITA-SEC...



DO THEY HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT TIME IT IS...!!!

THERE'S A TRUCK.

KANAMI ...

Villager File No 12 Yano Tae

HEY YOU! KILL THE LIGHTS!!

THE HORN TOO!

CUT IT OUT!!

MOVING TRUCK..?

AT A TIME LIKE THIS..?

ドドドド

THANKS. SORRY ABOUT THAT..

자

AHH..

WHERE ARE YOU HEADED?

I'M TERRIBLY SORRY!!

I'M LOOKING FOR A VILLAGE CALLED SOTOBA!!!

I LOST MY WAY.

I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY TIMES I'VE BEEN GOING IN CIRCLES AROUND HERE, BUT I'M COMPLETELY LOST NOW

.....

IT'S HERE!

I'M REALLY WIDY SORRY!!!

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YEAH IT'S LIKE THE NAME OF A PLACE IN THE VILLAGE

AREN'T YOU MOVING INTO THAT OLD MANSION UP THERE?

AAAH! YES, THAT'S RIGHT!!!

WELL THE TURN AT THAT TRAFFIC LIGHT IS THE ENTRANCE TO THE VILLAGE BUT I GUESS IT'S EASY TO MISS

KANE-MANA?

COULD IT BE YOU'RE ONE OF THE KANE-MANA?

I HUMBLY APOLOGIZE FOR ALL THE BOTHER CAUSED BY OUR MOVING IN SO EARLY

YAH!

MY NAME IS KIRISAKI.

KANEMASA'S MANSION

TEMPLE

WHY ARE THERE CARS GOING UP THERE SO LATE AT NIGHT

ARE THOSE KANEMASA'S CARS. !?

!?

MUST CONCENTRATE---

--ANYWAY, I HAVE WORK! WORK!

荒涼たる

DESOLATE

荒地

THE DARK AND GLOOMY SKY HANGS LOW
WHERE THE CLOUDS AND THE EARTH
HAS THE WORLD BEAUTIFULLY
DIVIDED INTO TWO

THE DESOLATE EARTH HAS BEEN
FROZEN OVER AND HARDENED
UP AND DOWN,
SEVERAL TIMES OVER

THE EXILED ONE.

---HE HAS BEEN CURSED.

---THE EXILED ONE.

---HE HAS BEEN CURSED.

---HE HAS BEEN CURSED.

---THE EXILED ONE.

SOON, THE LIGHT FROM THE SUN WILL FADE, AND ONCE AGAIN, NIGHT WILL COME.

THIS IS THE APPOINTED TIME WHEN HE WILL COME TO THIS WASTELAND

THAT CORPSE SHOULD HAVE BEEN BURIED TOGETHER WITH HIS GRIEF

YET TONIGHT IT COMES AGAIN, RESURRECTED FROM ITS GRAVE

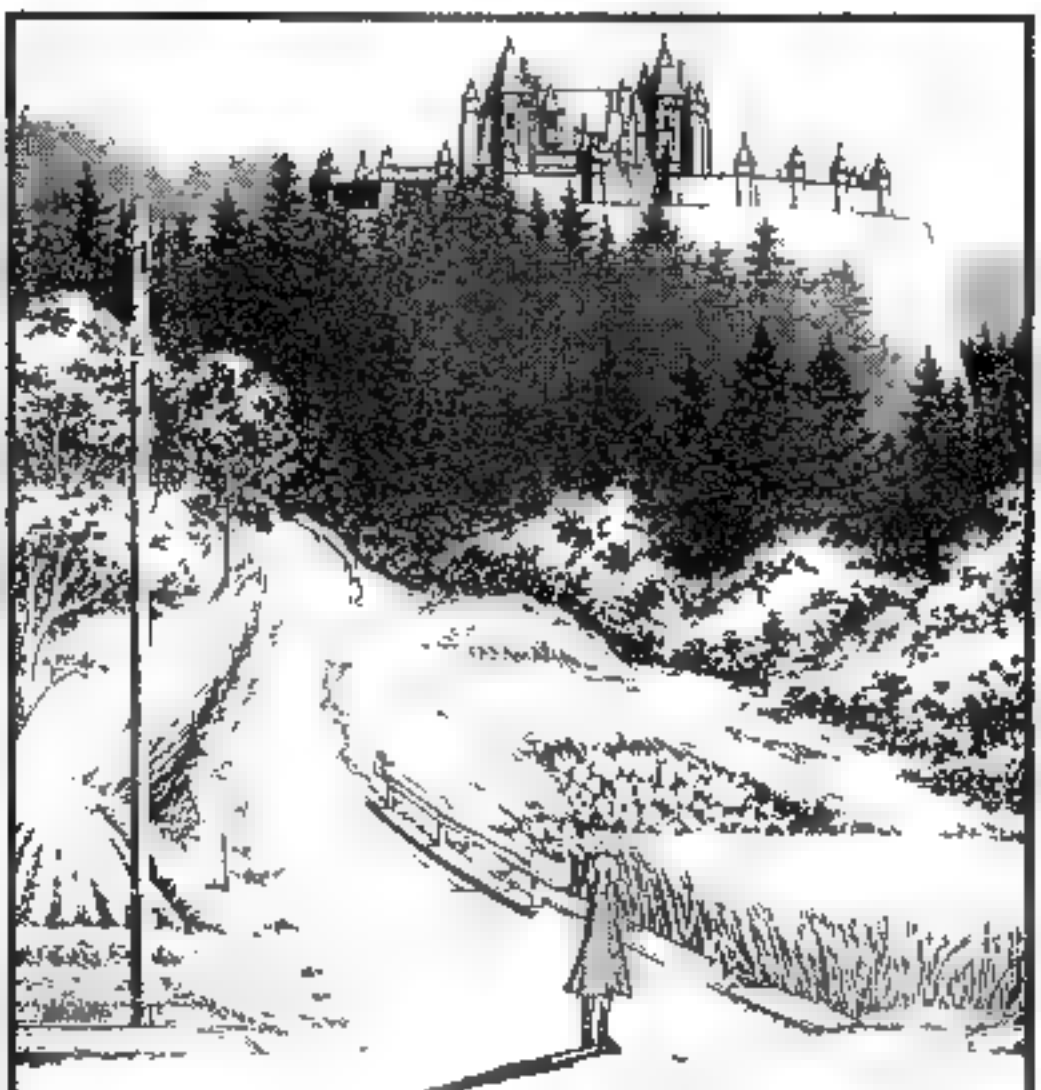
THAT IS HIS YOUNGER BROTHER, WHO HAD ALREADY BEEN SLAIN

11th August, Thursday Taian

n this soiated vi lage that's so gloomy monsters would want to live here a new topic for conversation has presented itself again

TAI 大安 (TAIAN) MEANS A DAY OF GREAT PEACE MOST LUCKY DAY

I HEARD THEY ASKED FOR DIRECTIONS AT THE DRIVE-IN.
IT'S A YOUNG MAN OR SOMETHING
OH? FINALLY!?
I HEARD THE KANEMASA HAVE MOVED IN!!
(SIGN) OOKAWA BOTTLE SHOP
大川酒店
I HEARD THEY CAME AFTER MIDNIGHT, AT AROUND 2 O'CLOCK



JUST LIKE THAT, THIS NEW SENSATIONAL TOPIC CREATED A STIR, AND NOBODY TALKED ABOUT THE MATTER THAT HAPPENED AT YAMAIRI ANY MORE

OH MY! HOW COULD THERE BE SUCH A CUTE LITTLE LADY IN THIS PRIMITIVE VILLAGE!!

I WOULD LOVE TO HAVE YOU AS MY DAUGHTER! WON'T YOU COME TO MY HOUSE FOR SOME TEA!?

ONE DAY WHEN I'M TAKING A WALK

OH MY!

THIS IS MY PREDICTION!

THE MASTER OF THE HOUSE WOULD WEAR A WONDERFUL SUIT, AND THE LADY WOULD BE IN A DRESS

THEY'D HAVE A SON WHO IS ABOUT 18-YEARS-OLD, AND AN OLD BUTLER WHO'S STAYING WITH THEM

SAME HERE! PLEASE THINK OF THIS AS YOUR OWN HOME AND COME AND PLAY OFTEN!!

OH MY!

I JUST LOVE YOU TO PIECES!

I'M SO SORRY, NATSUNO-KUN! PLEASE FORGIVE ME!

AHHHH, NOOOOO~~~~ MEGUMI, YOU SILLY GIRL! DON'T BE SO STUPID~~~~~

MEGUMI-CHA~N!

IT'S SUCH A HOT DAY TODAY~!!

LET'S GO FOR A WALK~!?

KAORI

THIS HALF-BREED WITH ITS IDIOTIC FACE IT'S JUST LIKE ITS OWNER

I'M SURE OVER AT THAT HOUSE, THEY WOULD HAVE A FOREIGN BREED

AHH- THEY'VE FINALLY MOVED IN, HUH?

THEY HAVE A DAUGHTER, YOU KNOW?

!

HN?

スタスタスタスタ

ヒロイン

A-

DAUGH TER!?

LIVES THERE!?

UHH.

HNN. AND, SO?

WHAT SORT OF PEOPLE ARE THEY?

YUP

THERE'S A MASTER AND HIS WIFE, AS WELL AS A DAUGHTER WHO'S A LITTLE YOUNGER THAN US. IT'S A FAMILY OF THREE

SINCE I WASN'T REALLY INTERESTED OR ANYTHING, I JUST KEPT GOING!

AH, NO. I MERELY OVERHEARD SOME AUNTIES TALKING ABOUT IT WHEN I WALKED PAST .

NOT INTERESTED?

HOW ARE THEY WEIRD!?

ズズズ

WEIRD!?

ゴロン

EHH--? MEGUMI-CHAN, ARE YOU INTERESTED?

SO-? HOW IS THAT WEIRD!?

?

?

WELL, THAT IS, THEY MOVED IN AT MIDNIGHT, AND.

IT'S A WEIRD HOUSE..

?

?

IT'S SUCH A WEIRD HOUSE, THOUGH--

IT SEEMS TO HAVE A DARK ATMOSPHERE ABOUT IT, SOMEHOW

IF YOU LIVE THERE, YOU'LL PROBABLY GET DEPRESSED.

日暮へ なき

NO MATTER HOW YOU SEE IT, IT DOESN'T FIT SOTOBA AT ALL.

WHAT'S THE MATTER?

MEGUMI-CHAN.

DID I SAY SOMETHING

WHAT RUBBISH! RUBBISH!! RUBBISH!!!

UNCIVILIZED PEOPLE IN AN UNCIVILIZED VILLAGE. AREN'T THEY EVEN A LITTLE EMBARRASSED FOR THEMSELVES!!?

YOU DON'T HAVE TO DRESS UP FOR A STORE LIKE THIS.

こんな店におしゃれしてくるのに

OH DEAR MEGUMI-CHAN!

IT'S THE SAME WHEN I GET LAUGHED AT FOR GOING TO THE STORE DRESSED LIKE THIS, EVEN THOUGH A T-SHIRT WOULD HAVE BEEN PERFECTLY FINE IN THIS PLACE

THE THING THAT'S WEIRD IS HOW THEY CAN NOT FEEL EMBARRASSED WHEN FACED WITH SUCH A RESPECTABLE AND ELEGANT HOUSE!!

THAT HOUSE IS NOT WEIRD. IT'S ALL OF YOU THAT'S WEIRD!!!

I REALLY HATE THIS VILLAGE!!!

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, MISS?

OH DEAR?

EH!?

OWWW WWWW !!!

THAT HURT A LOOOOOOO OOT!!!

THEY SAW MEEEEEE!!!

THEY S-S-S-S-S-SAAAAAWW WWW!!!

MY SPLENDID CATWALK WILL CAPTIVATE YOUR EYES FOR SURE!!!

THAT'S RIGHT! NOW I CAN SHOW OFF THE FRUITS OF MY LABOR!

--YES, THIS IS TANAKA.

アハハハ きった

プル プル プル

同日夜9時頃

Same day 9 o clock p m

HN-

I MET HER IN FRONT OF THE GATE WHEN I TOOK RABU OUT FOR A WALK.

KAORI.

DID YOU SEE MEGUMI-CHAN TODAY?

ALL RIGHT

---HELLO? HIROKO? SHE SAID THEY MET IN FRONT OF THE GATE

DID SHE SAY ANYTHING TO YOU?

---EH?

-----NNN

NOT REALLY

SHE HASN'T RETURNED HOME, THEY SAID.

Villager File No 13
Tanaka Sachiko
Kaori's Mother

ポツ

ポツ

STU-

STUPID! SHE'S JUST A LITTLE LATE!!!

WHAT? MEGUMI IS MISSING!?

MEGUMI WENT.

SHE WENT UP THE HILL TO KANEMASA'S !!

ガシッ

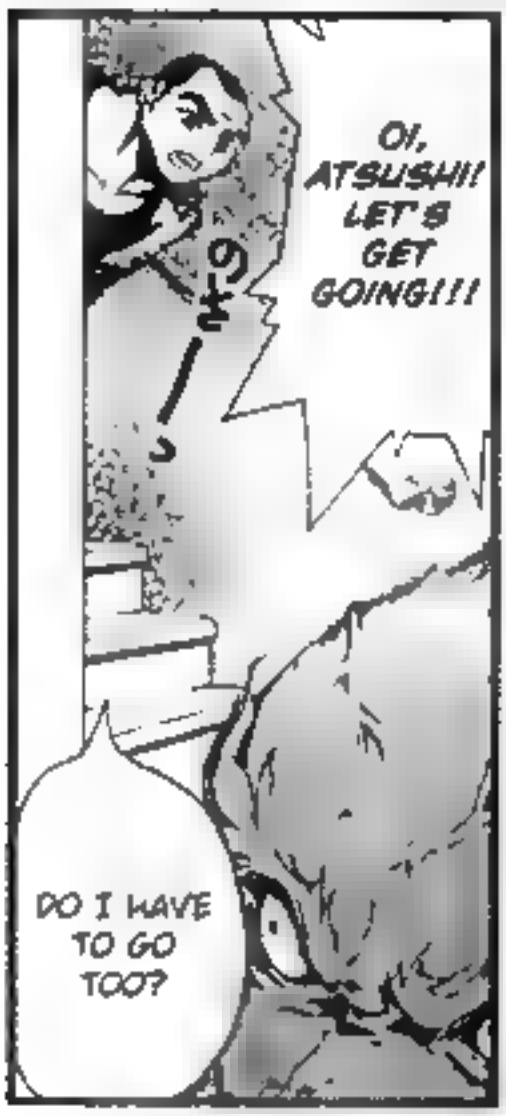
---MOM !!!

WAHH, WHAT!!?

BUT, LOOK AT THE TIME!!

AND, JUST AFTER THOSE 3 PEOPLE DIED AT YAMAIRI---!?

(SIGH) OOKAWA BOTTLE SHOP



SHIMIZU'S DAUGHTER WENT MISSING IN THE DIRECTION OF THE MOUNTAIN!?
Villager File No 14 Ookawa Bottle Shop Owner
Ookawa Tomio
村人ファイルNo 14 大川酒店店主
大川富雄

ISN'T SHIMIZU THE ONE FROM LOWER SOTOBA?
SHOULDN'T WE LEAVE THIS TO LOWER SOTOBA'S FIRE DEPARTMENT
Villager File No 15
The son Atsushi
村人ファイルNo 15
息子 篤

(APRON) OOKAWA BOTTLE SHOP

LET'S GO ON A MOUNTAIN HUNT!!!

酒 大川酒店

WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN FRONT OF KANEMASA'S?

--HELLO THERE!!

BUT I GOT KIND OF NERVOUS DEALING WITH PEOPLE FROM THE CITY

THAT'S RIGHT! MR. YUUKI, YOU LIVED IN A CITY BEFORE, RIGHT? COULD YOU COME WITH ME TO ASK THEM?

SURE

IF SHE WENT UP THE HILL TO KANEMASA'S, THEY MIGHT HAVE SEEN HER.

--IS WHAT THEY SAID...

---AH, NO. IT'S JUST, THE YOUNG PRIEST FROM THE TEMPLE, AND DR OZAKI-

Villager File No 18 The policeman, Takam
村人ファイルNo.18 駐在の高見

Yes?

EHH

I'M SORRY TO BOTHER YOU SO LATE AT NIGHT

A HIGH SCHOOL GIRL WENT MISSING, SO I WONDERED IF YOU MIGHT HAVE SEEN HER.

XO!!!

Please wait a moment.

ガヤガヤ

FROM THERE!?

SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING!

ガヤガヤ

I SEE

AHH. WELL. I ASKED THE PEOPLE IN THE HOUSE BUT IT SEEMS NOBODY HAS SEEN THE YOUNG LADY!

じろ

じろ

EHH!?

WHEN THINGS LIKE THAT HAPPEN, WE MUST HELP EACH OTHER OUT IS WHAT MY MASTER SAID!

--PLEASE ALLOW ME TO LEND A HAND TOO!

YAH!!

I'M A SERVANT HERE. MY NAME IS TATSUMI!

I HAVE LITTLE EXPERIENCE IN GEOGRAPHY, BUT PLEASE GIVE ME ANY INSTRUCTIONS!!

AS LONG AS WE FIND HER ALIVE

I SURE AS HELL DON'T WANT TO FIND A CORPSE

HIS WILL TAKE SOME TIME, HUH.

THIS IS. .

YAH!

DON'T MIND THOSE PEOPLE PLEASE

I HEARD THERE'S A YOUNG MAN WITH THEM, RIGHT?

IN ANY CASE IT'S KAMI-MAMA

PERHAPS THAT GIRL WAS

BUT THERE'S BEEN THE MURDER OF THOSE OLD PEOPLE AT YAMABE RECENTLY

OH NO THEY DIED FROM ILLNESS I THOUGHT?

SHE'S JUST GONE OFF SOMEWHERE TO PLAY HASN'T SHE?

IT'S THAT SHIMIZU'S DAUGHTER RIGHT? SHE'S SO FLASHY AND FRIVOLOUS. SO

The next day 12th August Friday 9:44 Past 3 o'clock a.m.

THERE SHE IS!!!

HAS SOMEONE CALLED DR. OZAKI?

AAH, SHE MIGHT HAVE HIT HER HEAD

O, O!

CAN YOU STAND?

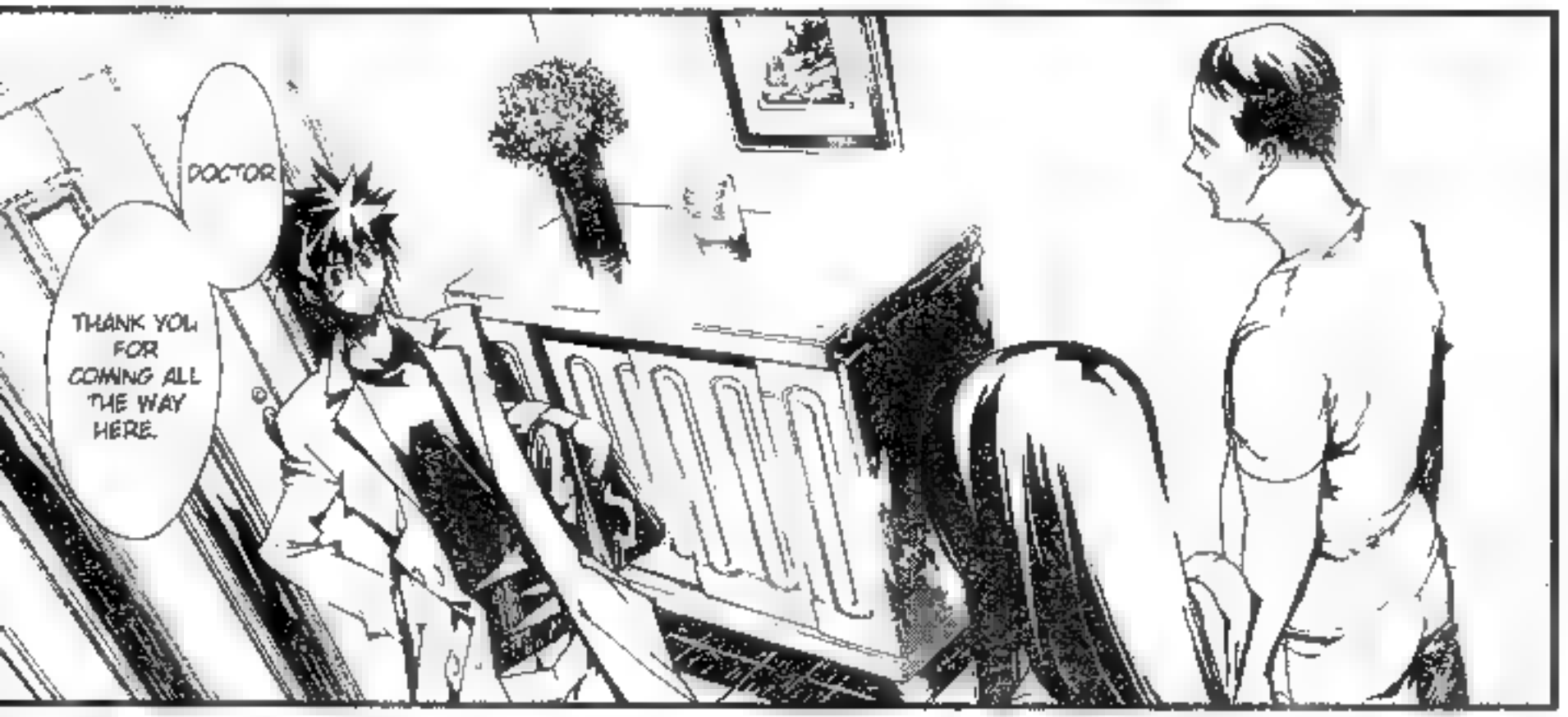
HOW DO YOU FEEL?

UHH

THANK GOODNESS!

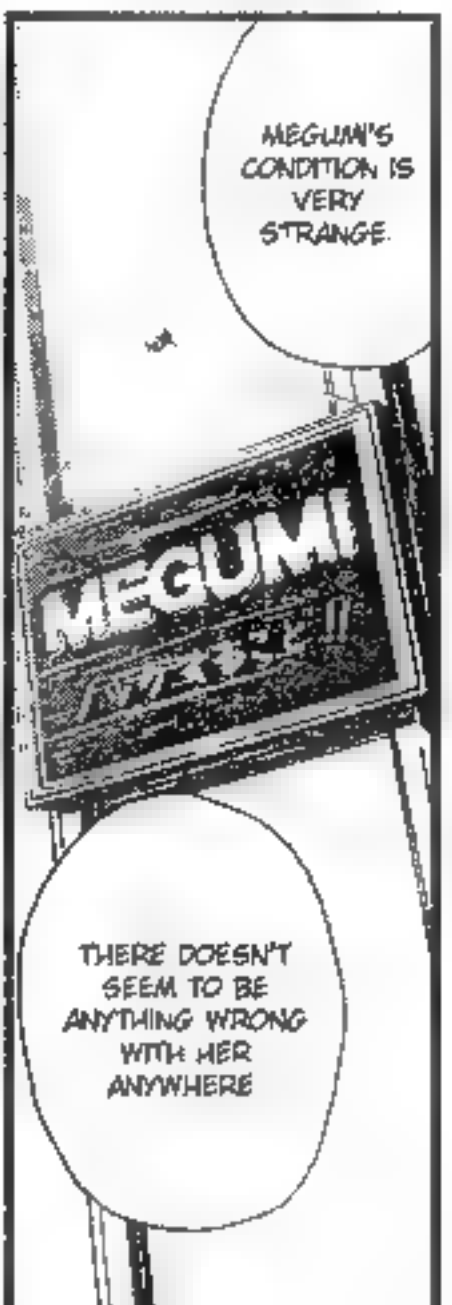
LOOKS LIKE SHE CAN WALK ON HER OWN. THAT'S A RELIEF!

同日 夜 清水家
Same day Shimizu's home


DOCTOR
THANK YOU FOR COMING ALL THE WAY HERE.

THERE IS NOTHING WRONG WITH HER PHYSICALLY IT COULD BE AN EMOTIONAL THING..

SHE WON'T REPLY TO QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED YESTERDAY
SHE JUST STARES BLANKLY INTO SPACE


MEGUMI'S CONDITION IS VERY STRANGE.
MEGUMI
THERE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE ANYTHING WRONG WITH HER ANYWHERE

ボー

MEGUMI-CHAN, IT'S OZAKI.

ん……

YOUR PARENTS SAID YOU HAVEN'T EATEN ANYTHING?

WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOUR APPETITE?

ANE-MIC.

ホー…

SHE'S ANEMIC, BUT APART FROM THAT, THERE'S NOTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY

AS A PRECAUTION, WE'LL DO A BLOOD TEST I'M GOING TO DRAW SOME BLOOD.

SHE DOESN'T HAVE A FEVER, AND APART FROM SOME INSECT BITES, THERE ARE NO SIGNS OF EXTERNAL INJURIES.

HER PULSE IS A LITTLE FAST.

BLOOD PRESSURE IS CONSIDERABLY LOWER THAN NORMAL

SLEEPY

VERY..

SLEEPY?

...NOT GOOD I CAN'T THINK OF ANYTHING

I WAS WELCOMED BY THE MASTER AND THE SERVANT

WHAT HAPPENED ... TO ME?

The next day, 13th August
Saturday. Senshou

T/N: 先勝 (SENSHOU) MEANS GOOD LUCK IN THE MORNING, BAD LUCK IN THE AFTERNOON

MEGUMI-CHAN LOOKS WORSE THAN SHE DID YESTERDAY

BEING ANEMIC SURE IS TERRIBLE.

EARLIER TODAY, I MET THE LADY FROM THAT MANSION!!!

--I KNOW!! MEGUMI-CHAN, HERE'S SOMETHING WONDERFUL!! ***I WAS TOTALLY SHOCKED!!!***

SHE'S INCREDIBLE. SHE'S SO STYLISH, LIKE AN ACTRESS! I WAS ONLY IN A T-SHIRT SO I FELT A LITTLE ***EMBARRASSED!!***

IT SEEMED LIKE SHE WAS TAKING A WALK AROUND THE VILLAGE, SINCE SHE'D JUST MOVED HERE!

SHE WAS TALKING TO YASUYUKI FROM THE LUMBER MILL!

THIS IS OZAKI.

8月15日月曜 先負
尾崎医院
15th August, Monday Senbu
Ozaki Hospital

MEGUMI ---
DEAD ---
EVEN SHAKING HER
NOT BREATHING---
SHIMIZU ---

T/N: 先負 (SENBU) MEANS BAD LUCK IN THE MORNING, GOOD LUCK IN THE AFTERNOON

SHIMIZU IS. .
MEGUMI-CHAN IS.
---EH?

DEAD!?

SHIMIZU IS DEAD.

I DON'T HAVE TO BE NERVOUS ABOUT KEEPING THIS WINDOW SHUT ANY MORE

THIS IS TERRIBLE IT'S ONE FUNERAL AFTER ANOTHER

DIDN'T SOMEONE JUST DIE A WHILE AGO?

ぽの

YEAH.

BUT IT'S A SMALL VILLAGE SO EVERY DEATH SEEMS SIGNIFICANT

NATSUNO---

WE'RE ABOUT TO LEAVE FOR THE FUNERAL ARE YOU READY?

It's HOT
THIS SUMMER
THESE MYSTERIOUS DEATHS WILL CONTINUE IN THE VILLAGE.
BECAUSE, FROM HERE ON, THE VILLAGE WILL BE BESIEGED FURTHER BY A MASSIVE NUMBER OF DEATHS.
BUT, THEY ONLY KNEW AFTERWARDS THAT THIS WAS JUST THE BEGINNING
Nobody knew at all

屍鬼 ——2月号(1月4日発売)につづく Shiki ... To be continued in issue #02 on sale 4th Jan.

SHIKI
Unit Project

013 SHI-KI

FUYUMI ONO × RYU FUJISAKI

MEGUMI-
CHAN...
16th Aug 1st, Tuesday, B itsu tetsu
TAN 4.※ (BUTSUMETSU) MEANS UNLUCKY ALL DAY
FEAR
Shit!
THE
TRUTH
ABOUT
DEATH...

Shiki

IF I WERE AN HONEST DOCTOR, WOULD I HAVE RETURNED TO THIS COUNTRYSIDE?

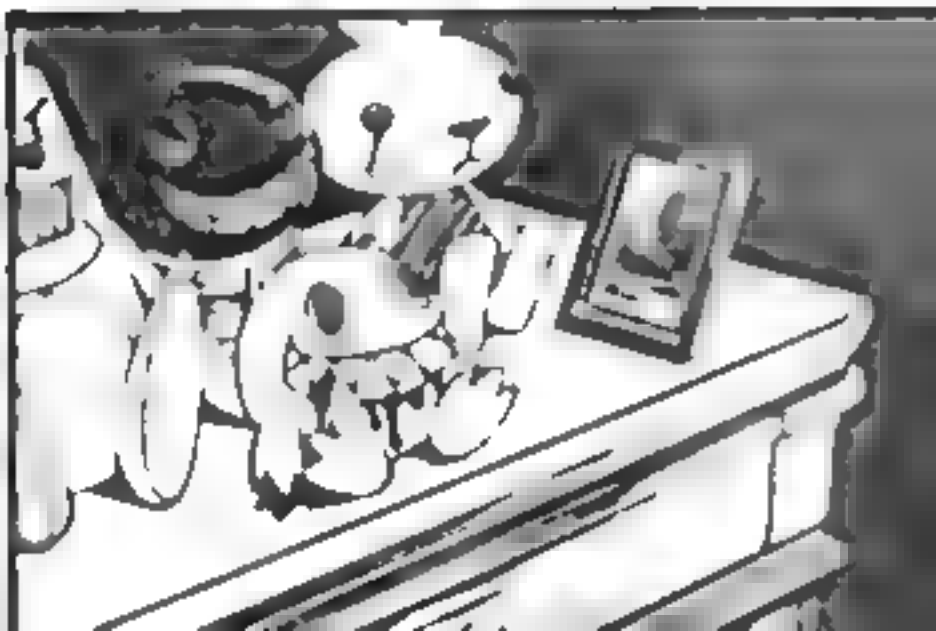
T/N: AN INTERESTING PUN. THE WORDS USED FOR "ONE" IN THE CHAPTER NUMBER HAS THE SAME READING AS "ONE" BUT MEAN "THE BLOOD LEFT BEHIND AFTER DEATH".

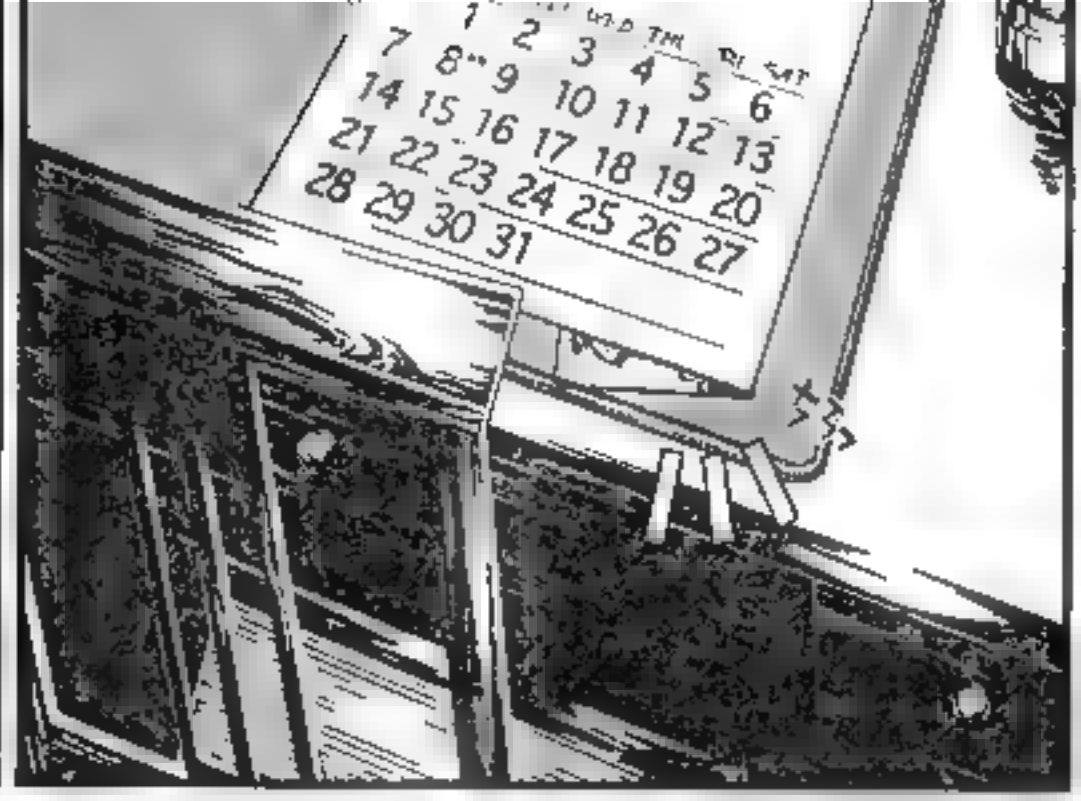
Original work / Ono Fuyumi Manga / Fujisaki Ryuu

Adapted from "Shiki" published by Shinchou Bunko Kan

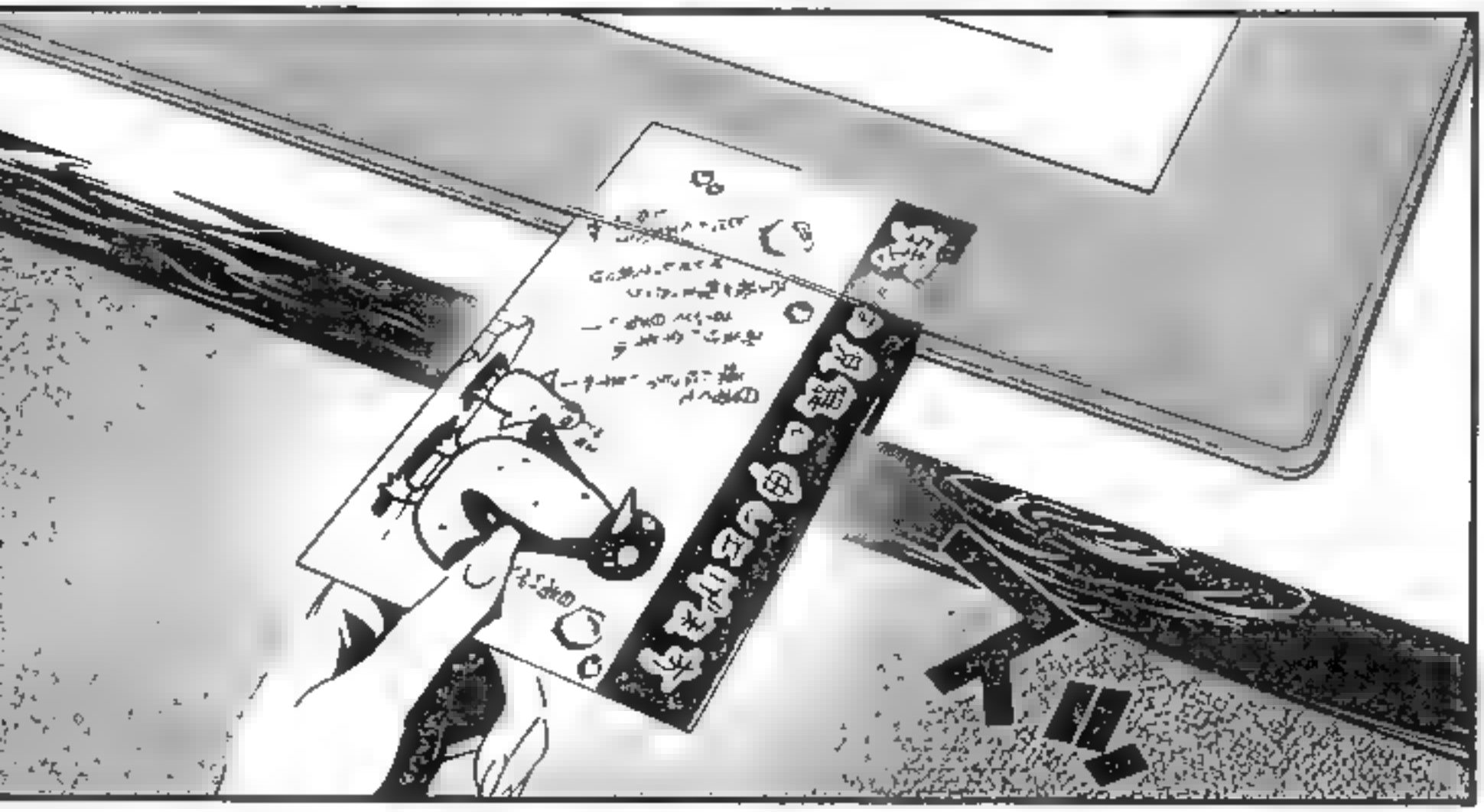
MEGUMI

EVERY-
THING'S
PUT IN
ORDER





POSTCARD: A LATE-SUMMER GREETING CARD FOR YOU.



8 August

LATE SUMMER IS ALMOST OVER!!

OH NO! I'VE BE WRITTEN SO MANY PIECES THAT IT'S ALREADY THE TIME FOR THE BON FESTIVAL"

I I FINALLY MANAGED TO COMPLETE THIS

NOW TO SEND IT

SFX: THUMP THUMP

I JUST CAN'T DO IT-"

AH! WHAT A CUTE POST-CARD"

I'M GOING TO SEND THIS TO YUUKI KUN"

SIGH: POSTCARDS

GEH! I WROTE "HOST" INSTEAD OF "HOT"!!

I'M NOT A HOSTESS!!

I HAVE TO BUY ANOTHER ONE)

YOU MUST HAVE RE-WRITTEN THIS OVER AND OVER AGAIN, DIDN'T YOU..

THERE ARE TIMES WHEN WE COME TOGETHER IN A PLACE WITHOUT EVEN KNOWING WHY.

NIGHT.

I'LL FOLLOW THIS ASPHALT THROUGH THE COUNTRYSIDE, AND LEAVE THE TOWN AND THE VILLAGE BEHIND, TO HEAD FOR THE BUSTLING CITY

IT WAS DAWN AT THE TIME I COULDN'T STAND IT ANY MORE. SO I WALKED STRAIGHT TO THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY

BECAUSE THIS VILLAGE IS UNDER SIEGE BY DEATH

!

ﾀﾀﾀ

ﾀﾀﾀ

THAT'S

TAROU, WAIT!!

ﾀﾀﾀ

ﾀﾀﾀ

TAROU--!!

T

IS HE LEAVING-?

AHH

KYAAAA! TAROU, PLEASE DON'T DO THAT~!!!

UGH

AH!

HOW'S YOUR LEG, NATSUNO?

THE ONE THAT WAS HURTING WHEN YOU WERE GROWING UP

...

I'M SO SORRY, NATSUNO I JUST CHANGED HIS COLLAR BUT IT'S STILL TOO BIG, SO HE SLIPPED OUT RIGHT AWAY

STOP CALLING ME BY MY FIRST NAME.

EXCUSE ME, NURSE

PLEASE STOP THAT

HUH?

BECAUSE IT SOUNDS LIKE A GIRL'S

OH. YOU DON'T LIKE YOUR NAME?

I SEE

YOUR FATHER IS QUITE THE ROMANTIC

I THINK IT'S A REALLY NICE AND REFRESHING NAME, THOUGH.

DID YOUR MOTHER GIVE IT TO YOU?

IT WAS MY FATHER.

SOMETHING LIKE, IT WAS THE NAME OF A NOBLE FAMILY LONG AGO.

--IF HE WEREN'T, WE WOULDN'T HAVE MOVED TO A PLACE LIKE THIS.

IT FEELS LIKE AN IDEAL COUNTRYSIDE.

NOT ONE THING IN IT CAN BE CONSIDERED YOUNG.

IT HAS A POPULATION OF MERELY 1300 A VILLAGE THAT LIVES TO GROW FIR TREES AND MAKE THESE WOODEN GRAVE TABLETS

SOTOBA VILLAGE

--BECAUSE OF THAT, IT'S SURROUNDED BY MOUNTAINS OF FIR TREES ON THREE SIDES

THAT'S WHAT NOVELISTS USED TO WRITE, AND ALSO WHAT THE YOUNG MASTER OF THE TEMPLE WROTE IN AN ESSAY ABOUT THE VILLAGE THAT WAS PUBLISHED IN A MAGAZINE

THE VILLAGE WAS SURROUNDED BY THESE TREES BECAUSE OF DEATH

BECAUSE THEY WERE CONSIDERED TREES FOR THE DEAD, THE VILLAGE BECAME ISOLATED FROM THE OUTSIDE WORLD

--THAT'S NOT REALLY WHAT I MEANT THOUGH...

AHAHAHA. IT'S ALL RIGHT IT'S THE TRUTH, AFTER ALL!

IT'S REALLY A COUNTRYSIDE WITH NOTHING.

FUFU

IT'LL BE A REFRESHING CHANGE TO MOVE TO THAT TERRIBLY BORING VILLAGE, RIGHT?

SO, LET'S GET MARRIED!!

OH? RITSU-CHAN, GOOD MORNING

AH! MR. TATSU AND MR. OITAROU, GOOD MORNING~!!

Villager File No. 21
Takemura Tatsu
Lower Sotoba, Takemura Stationery Store, Store Owner

Villager File No. 21
Satou Oitarou, Takemura Stationery Store Frequenter, Carpenter

AH, I NEED TO MAKE A TURN HERE.

I HAVE TO GET TO SHIMIZU MEGUMI'S FUNERAL.

BUSS

I WAS BORN AND BRED IN THE CITY BECAUSE OF THAT, THE INCONVENIENCES OF THIS VILLAGE, AND THE PEOPLE OF THIS VILLAGE...

EVERYONE IS WATCHING AND REPORTING ON ONE ANOTHER, LIKE ONE BIG CONSPIRACY I CAN'T HANDLE THIS KIND OF VILLAGE MOB MENTALITY

-- GEEZ.

THAT'S HOW IT IS IN THE COUNTRYSIDE. HAAAA.

NOT THAT LONG AGO, YOU WERE THE TALK OF THE VILLAGE.

ESPECIALLY BECAUSE YOUR FAMILY CAME FROM THE CITY, AND YOU'RE OUTSIDERS

おばあ

YOU KNOW (3)

MEGUMI-CHAN.

SEE, BEFORE SHE DIED, MEGUMI-CHAN HAD COLLAPSED IN THE MOUNTAINS WHERE SHE WAS FOUND, RIGHT?

AT THE TIME, THE DOCTOR DIAGNOSED IT AS A MERE CASE OF ANEMIA. BUT

THE DOCTOR IS TAKING THIS REALLY HARD.

?

--YET, SHE DIED

SHIMIZU-SAN.

WHY DID MEGUMI DIE!?

DOES A PERSON DIE FROM A MERE CASE OF ANEMIA!?

Voyager File No. 22 & 23
Shimizu Takeo & Hiroki

WELL .

I WON'T KNOW THE DETAILS WITHOUT A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION .

HOW ABOUT IT?

.....

IT'D PRESENTED ITSELF AS A MERE CASE OF ANEMIA, BUT EVEN ASSUMING THAT THAT'S NOT ALL IT WAS, I THOUGHT WE'D HAVE MORE THAN ENOUGH TIME TO WAIT FOR THE RESULTS OF THE BLOOD TEST.

THE REALITY HERE IS A SHOCK TO ME, MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE.

IF POSSIBLE, I HOPE YOU'LL LET ME PERFORM AN AUTOPSY

I WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO DETERMINE THE REAL CAUSE OF DEATH

ARE YOU KIDDING ME!!!

--NO, I'M SORRY.

DEAR

. THEN

NO. . BUT, YOU CANNOT HAVE THE AUTOPSY.

SHE'S JUST A LITTLE GIRL.

. YOU'D LIKE TO PUNCH ME I UNDERSTAND HOW YOU FEEL, SHIMIZU-SAN.

--THE TIME OF DEATH IS 2 A.M. IN THE MORNING.

CAUSE OF DEATH IS ACUTE HEART FAILURE..

THAT'S ENOUGH

PLEASE, I'VE HAD ENOUGH ALREADY

ACUTE HEART FAILURE?

COUNTRY BAKARA

WHEN THE CAUSE OF DEATH IS UNKNOWN, IT'S GENERALLY STATED AS ACUTE SOMETHING OR ANOTHER FAILURE TO CLOSE THE CASE.

I KNOW A LOT ABOUT BEING A DOCTOR, YOU KNOW! BUT, DON'T TELL ANYONE!

. NURSE, DON'T YOU EVER FEEL LIKE LEAVING THE VILLAGE?

THE WORLD OUTSIDE HAS A SHORTAGE OF NURSES SO YOU WOULDN'T HAVE PROBLEMS FINDING A JOB.

YOU MEAN, TO MOVE TO A STRANGE TOWN WHERE YOU'D HAVE TO RELY ON PEOPLE WHO WOULD NEVER COMPREHEND THE LONELINESS OF LEAVING ALL THAT?

LEAVE ALL THE PEOPLE YOU'VE KNOWN SINCE YOU WERE LITTLE, AND THIS TINY VILLAGE THAT YOU'VE BECOME ATTACHED TO?

OUR NEW HOUSE WILL BE MADE OF FIR WOOD, I THINK!

AND, THE HOUSE IS GETTING REALLY OLD SO THEY'VE BEEN NAGGING ME TO REBUILD IT

MY HOME CONSISTS OF MY MOTHER, MY YOUNGER SISTER AND MYSELF. ALL THREE OF US DEPEND ON ME! WHAT'LL HAPPEN IF I LEAVE?

NO, NEVER.

WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH THIS POSTCARD?

.....

THIS ONE WAS REALLY SUDDEN.

AHH!

HOW WONDERFUL

IT'S WONDERFUL, ISN'T IT, MEGUMI-CHAN!!!

HE-HE REALLY CAME!!

うわあああ

JWAH !!

SHE'S COMING AT ME!!

WHAT'S WITH THIS GIRL?

IT LOOKS LIKE SHE STARTED CRYING WHEN SHE SAW ME

MEGUMI-CHAN~~ UWAAAAAAAA

...

HUH?

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!!

YEAH

I'M MEGUMI-CHAN'S BEST FRIEND WE GREW UP TOGETHER. MY NAME IS TANAKA KAORI!

UHM.. UHM.. WOULD YOU PLEASE ACCEPT SOMETHING MEGUMI-CHAN LEFT BEHIND?

IT'S JUST A LITTLE THING, BUT.

UHM.. YOU'RE YUUKI NATSUNO, RIGHT!?

I CAN'T

--HUH?

I'M NOT PARTICULARLY CLOSE TO SHIMIZU SO THERE'S NO REASON FOR ME TO ACCEPT ANYTHING FROM HER!!

I'M ONLY HERE BECAUSE OUR PARENTS ARE COLLEAGUES, AND THEY BROUGHT ME ALONG!

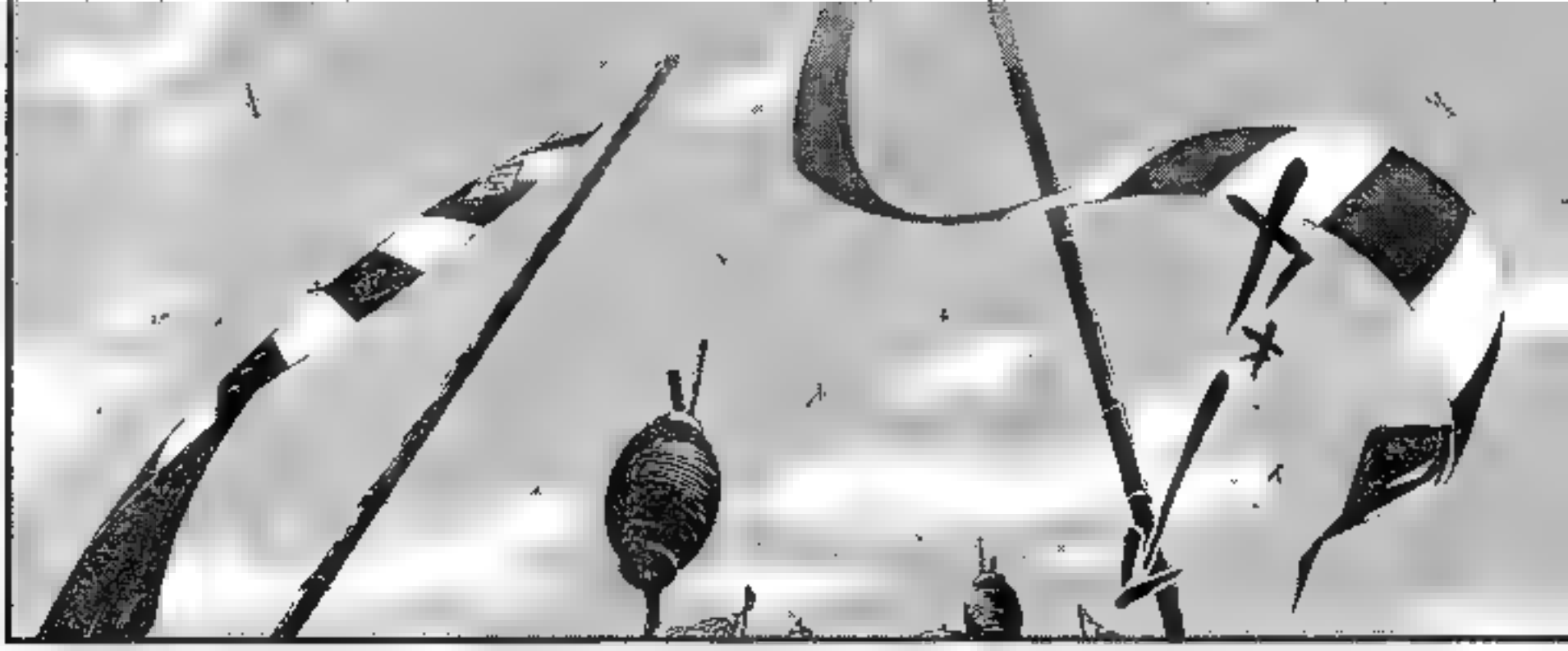
EH, WAIT..

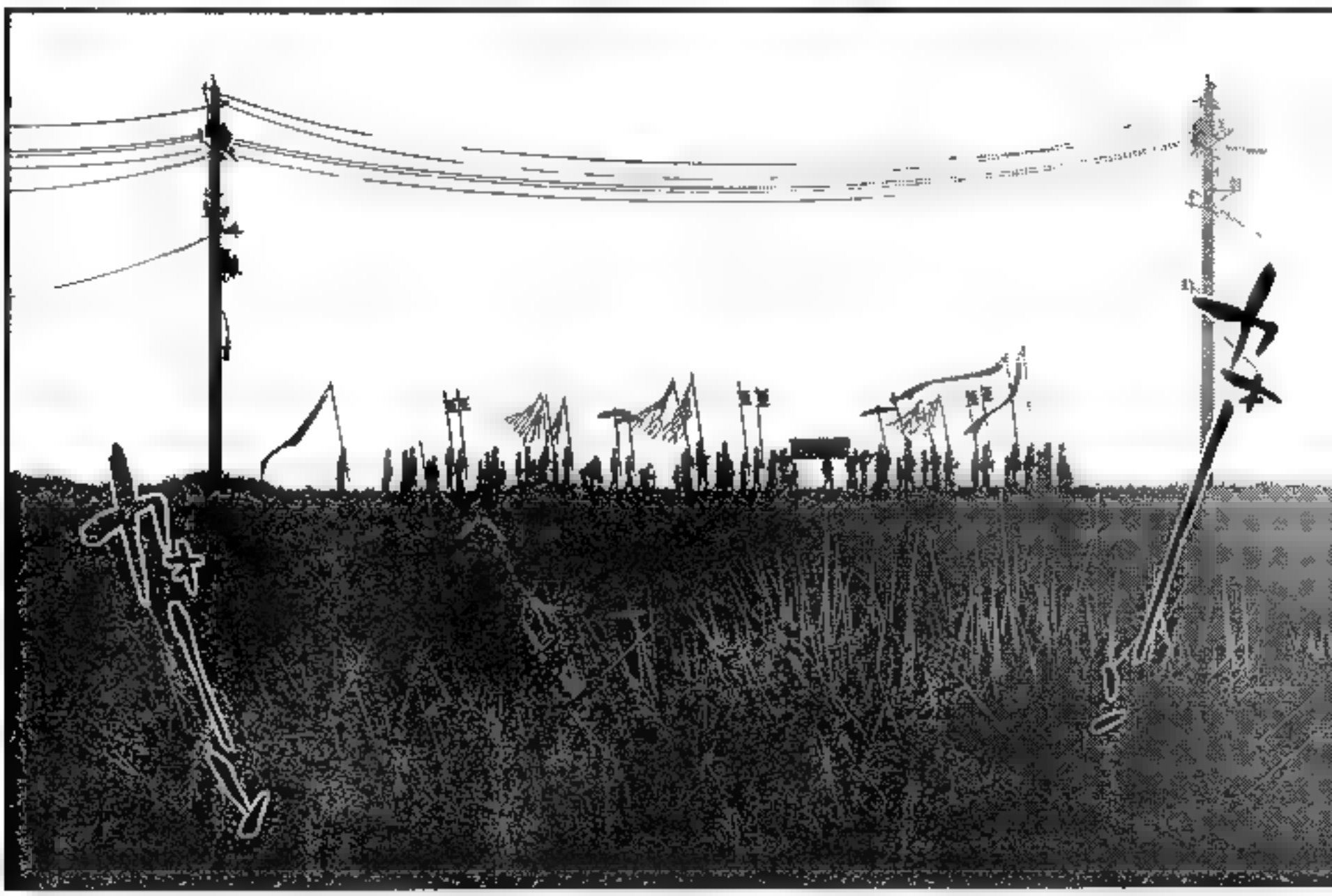
MEGUMI-CHAN'S FUNERAL PROCESSION IS STARTING SOON.

WELL THEN, IT'S REALLY HOT SO I'M GOING HOME

アゼーン

I'M NOT OBLIGED TO ATTEND THE BURIAL EITHER.





--BUT, WHAT HAPPENED TO HER DURING THE TIME SHE WAS MISSING?

WELL, SHE'S SUCH A FLIPPANT CHILD ANYWAY, COULD IT BE .

EVEN CHILDREN CAN DIE.

I HAD A RELATIVE WHOSE SON DIED LONG AGO

SHIMIZU IS REALLY PITIFUL TOO

WHY WAS IT SO SUDDEN, ANYWAY..

THEY'RE SO CRUEL, MEGUMI-CHAN HOW COULD THEY TREAT YOU LIKE THAT...

EVEN, THOUGH MEGUMI-CHAN IS ALREADY DEAD . EVEN THOUGH SHE'S NO LONGER WITH US EVEN THOUGH SHE'S REALLY, REALLY PITIFUL. EVEN THOUGH EVERYONE SHOULD BE MOURNING HER DEATH A LITTLE MORE

THIS IS SCARY

IT'S LIKE A HOLE THAT'S SUCKING MEGUMI-CHAN IN

I FEEL LIKE IT'S SUCKING ME INSIDE TOO

THE VILLAGE STILL HAS A CUSTOM OF BURYING THE DEAD

IT'S
SUCKING
ME IN

THAT IS, THE DEAD WOULD RISE FROM THE GROUND IN THE NIGHT AND VISIT CHILDREN WHO HAVE BEEN NAUGHTY AND PUNISH THEM...

THAT'S THE REASON WHY THE VILLAGE HAS A LONG-HELD LEGEND OF THE "RISING".

IT'S ALMOST MEGUMI-CHAN'S BIRTHDAY, SO I'D BOUGHT THIS PRESENT FOR HER

CAN I BURY THIS TOGETHER WITH HER?

AUNTIE! UNCLE!

あっ

GOODNESS, KAORI!!

HOW COULD YOU SUGGEST THAT...!!!

EH

↑ MOTHER

MASTER PRIEST!!!

THAT'S NOT A BAD IDEA, IS IT?

YOU'RE HER FRIEND, AREN'T YOU?

PLEASE PUT IT IN. I'M SURE MEGUMI-CHAN WILL BE HAPPY TOO.

THESE THREE POSITIONS WERE LIKE THE PILLARS WHICH BOUND AND PROTECTED SOTOBA VILLAGE.

The temple Kanemasa-and

^ THE OLD KANEMASA MANSION

ALSO, WHEN YOU LOOK AT THE MAP, SANDWICHED RIGHT BETWEEN THE TEMPLE AND OZAK[illegible] IS A LARGE SAWMILL CALLED THE MARUYASU SAWMILL

YES.

HE'S DEAD

!

--THIS TIME, IT'S MR. GIICHI FROM MARUYASU?

17th August, Wednesday, Taian

Ozaki Hospital

大安 (TAIAN) MEANS A DAY OF GREAT PEACE, MOST LUCKY DAY

Maruyasu Sawmill, Head Family Yasumori Mansion

HE WAS ALREADY BEDRIDDEN WITH PARKINSON'S DISEASE. I KNEW HE DIDN'T HAVE LONG TO GO.

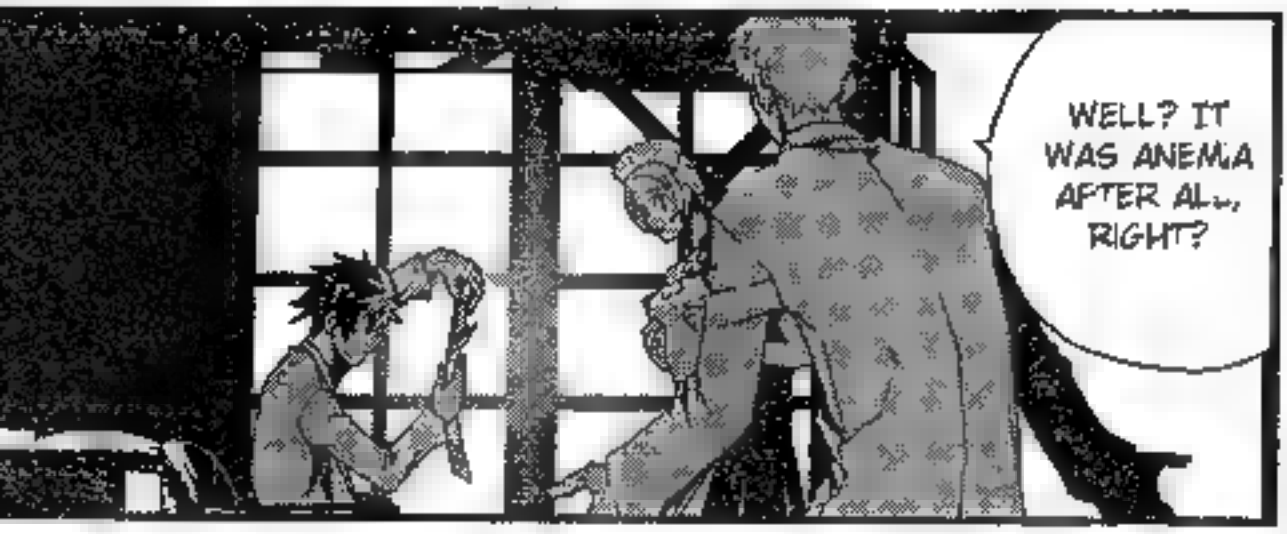
THE WHOLE FAMILY HAD GATHERED FOR THE BON FESTIVAL, BUT NOW, IT SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN FOR GRANDPA GIICHI'S DEATH

Villager File No. 28~32
Yasumori Family, Branch Family
(Yasumori Contractor)

Villager File No. 24~27
Yasumori Family, Head Family
(Maruyasu Sawmill)

HE SHOULDN'T HAVE ANY REGRETS, I SUPPOSE.

Mutou (No. 16) Head of Medical



HOW COULD THAT BE!!

MY DIAGNOSIS WAS WRONG.

THERE'S NO REASON FOR YOU TWO TO WORK UP SUCH A FUSS.

I THOUGHT MEGUMI-CHAN HAD IRON DEFICIENCY ANEMIA, WHICH IS COMMON AMONG GIRLS HER AGE. .

THAT IS, I THOUGHT IT WAS MICROCYTIC ANEMIA.

BUT. .

THERE ARE THREE MAIN TYPES OF ANEMIA:

NORMOCYTIC ANEMIA, MICROCYTIC ANEMIA, AND MACROCYTIC ANEMIA.

UH. RIGHT.

ACCORDING TO THE COMPLETE BLOOD COUNT IN THE TEST REPORT, AND THE CONCENTRATION OF HEMOGLOBIN WHICH IS ROUGHLY CALCULATED FROM THE HEMATOCRIT VALUE ..

THE RED BLOOD CELL COUNT WAS MULTIPLY-ING TOO

SO. IT WAS NORMOCYTIC ANEMIA, AFTER ALL

THEN

THAT MEANS

MEGUMI-CHAN'S CAUSE OF DEATH COULD BE SUMMARIZED AS..?

.....

EHH~?

I DON'T KNOW

AT FIRST GLANCE, I COULD TELL THERE WAS A SERIOUS PROBLEM, BUT NOT WHERE THAT WAS WHAT DEVELOPED INTO ANEMIA.

--YET, THERE WAS SOMETHING PHYSICALLY WRONG WITH HER, MORE THAN JUST HER SUDDEN DEATH.

THIS USUALLY RESULTS FROM HEMORRHAGE, HEMOLYSIS OR A SECONDARY ANEMIA SUCH AS APLASTIC ANEMIA.

BUT, IN MEGUMI-CHAN'S CASE, SHE DIDN'T HAVE ANY EXTERNAL INJURIES APART FROM SCRATCHES AND INSECT BITES, NOR DID SHE HAVE ANY MAJOR INTERNAL BLEEDING

AN AUTOPSY WOULD HAVE CLEARED IT UP

WELL.

EVEN IF THERE WERE SOMETHING THERE OTHER THAN THE ANEMIA, THE CURE WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN AVAILABLE IN TIME.

PERHAPS.

. IS FIXED ANYWAY, HUH.

A PERSON'S LIFESPAN. .

.....

後藤田

SIGN: GOTOUDA

21st Aug 1st, Sunday, Senbu
Upper Sotoba, Gotouda Home

* 先負 (SENBU) MEANS BAD LUCK IN THE MORNING, GOOD LUCK IN THE AFTERNOON

MADAM FUKI-

I BROUGHT YOU SOME FOOD-

MADAM FUJI, IT'S TAE-

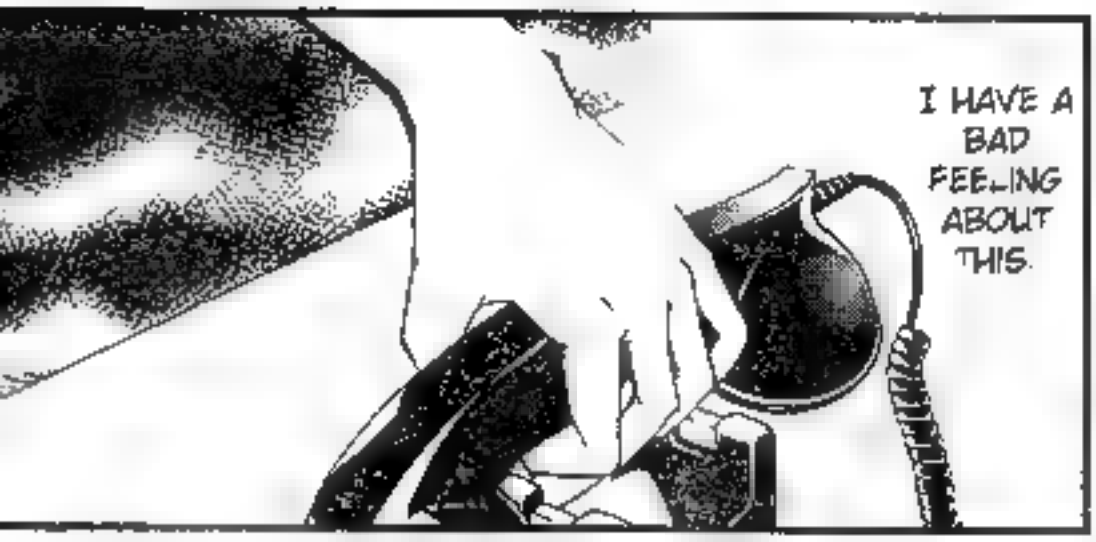
YOU MENTIONED YOU WEREN'T FEELING WELL. HOW ARE YOU NOW-?

Yano Tae (No. 12)

MADAM FUKI-

I'M COMING INSIDE.

Vilager File No 34
Gotouda Fuk


I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS.

EARLY MORNING CALLS AGAIN?
.....

YES, THIS IS OZAKI.

DON'T
CA
DO
SHE SAID

DO SHE
CALL?
DO SHE
DO TO
FOR?
WHENEVER I
WAS HERE
SHE STAYED IN
HER BED
NO

EVEN THOUGH
SHE'D BEEN
STAYING WITH
SEAN ALL THIS
TIME SHE SAID
THAT REALLY
DISTRACTED
A THOUGH !
HAVEN'T HEARD
THAT SHE
HATED THE
HOSPITAL OR
ANYTHING LIKE
THAT

DO SHE
MENTION ANY
PAIN OR
DISCOMFORT
NEVER
IT DIDN'T SEEM
ANYTHING LIKE
THAT I'D HAVE
CALLED THE
DOCTOR HERE
WHETHER SHE
LIKED IT OR
NOT!!!
TO CITY

--THEN, THIS MORNING, THERE WAS NO REPLY WHEN I CALLED HER, WHICH IS SORT OF COLD, SO I WONDERED IF SHE WAS DEAD, BUT ONLY BECAUSE I WAS WORRIED SHE WAS REALLY DEAD, AND THEN I THOUGHT MAYBE SHE'S NOT DEAD, BUT I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO, SO ANYWAY, I DECIDED TO GIVE YOU A CALL .

SHE'S PASSED AWAY

SO..

FUKI-SAN IS..

NOW, IT'S GOTOUDA FUKI!!?

EHHH!?

COME TO THINK OF IT, OOKAWA GIGOROU AND MURASAKO HIDEMASA WHO DIED AT YAMAIRI, ALSO DIED OF THE SUMMER FLU.

THAT'S WHAT I HEARD FROM MURASAKO MIEKO WHEN SHE CAME TO COLLECT HER HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE MEDICINE

COULD IT BE DUE TO THE FIERCE HEAT.

THE SUMMER FLU SEEMS TO BE GOING AROUND.

AFTER THAT, SHE ENDED UP LIKE THAT.

THE TWO OF THEM DIDN'T SEEM TO HAVE A FEVER THOUGH

THEY'RE JUST SUFFERING FROM THE SUMMER HEAT, I SUPPOSE. JUST STARING INTO SPACE DOING NOTHING.

WHAT IS IT, MITSUO -SAN?

IT'S A PHONE CALL FROM THE VILLAGE'S MANAGER!

MADAM GOTOUDA FUKI JUST DIED FROM HER ILLNESS!!

寺務所

SIGN: TEMPLE OFFICE

THIS YEAR'S SUMMER IS REALLY HARSH! THIS IS GOING TO CONTINUE!!

IT'S LIKE THE INCIDENT AT THE RIVERBANK MORE THAN TWENTY YEARS AGO; IT'S GOING TO BE A YEAR OF MANY DEATHS!

Village File No 37 Tadokoro Mitsuo In charge of temple routine tasks

AGAIN?

Village File No 35 Erica Priest Tsurumi

Village File No 36 Erica Priest Kebe

HMMM ---

THERE WAS SUCH A THING BEFORE!?

I JUST REMEMBERED I HAVE SOMETHING TO DISCUSS WITH OZAKI.

EXCUSE ME. I HAVE TO GO OUT FOR A WHILE PLEASE LOOK AFTER THINGS HERE.

尾崎医院

SIGN: OZAK HOSPITAL

~NO PROBLEM.

SORRY TO BOTHER YOU DURING YOUR BREAK, TOSHIO.

I WORK IN THE TEMPLE, AFTER ALL.

YOU SURE ARE FULLY INFORMED

DURING SUMMER LAST YEAR, 4 ELDERLY FOLKS PASSED AWAY

~SO, WHAT IS IT?

MEGUMI-CHAN.

MR. OHCHI.

MDM FUKU.

THE 3 PEOPLE AT YAMATO

THEN, THIS YEAR.

MR. SHUUJI

WHAT WAS THE CAUSE OF MDM FUKU'S DEATH?

MOST LIKELY IT WAS ACUTE KIDNEY FAILURE

IN MERELY HALF A MONTH WE'VE HAD 7 DEATHS

IT'S TOO MANY

FURTHERMORE MR. SHUUJI WAS ONLY 37-YEARS-OLD AND MEGUMI-CHAN WAS JUST ABOUT TO TURN 15 MUCH TOO YOUNG

BUT THE TRUE CAUSE OF DEATH?

I DON'T KNOW

MR. SHULJI WAS ALSO ACUTE HEART FAILURE

BUT, TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, THE CAUSE OF DEATH IS UNKNOWN.

MR. GIGOROU WAS THE SAME

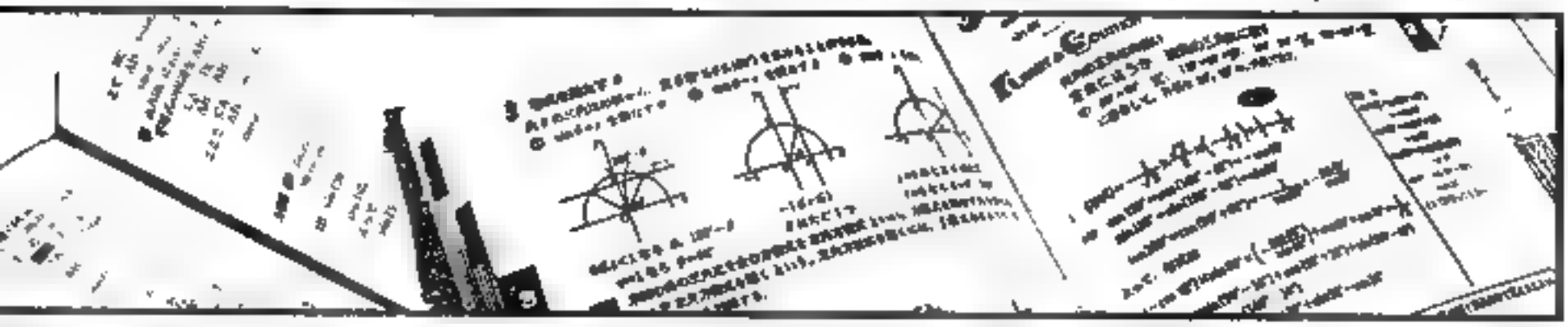
MR. HIDEMASA AND MDM MIEKO, TOO.

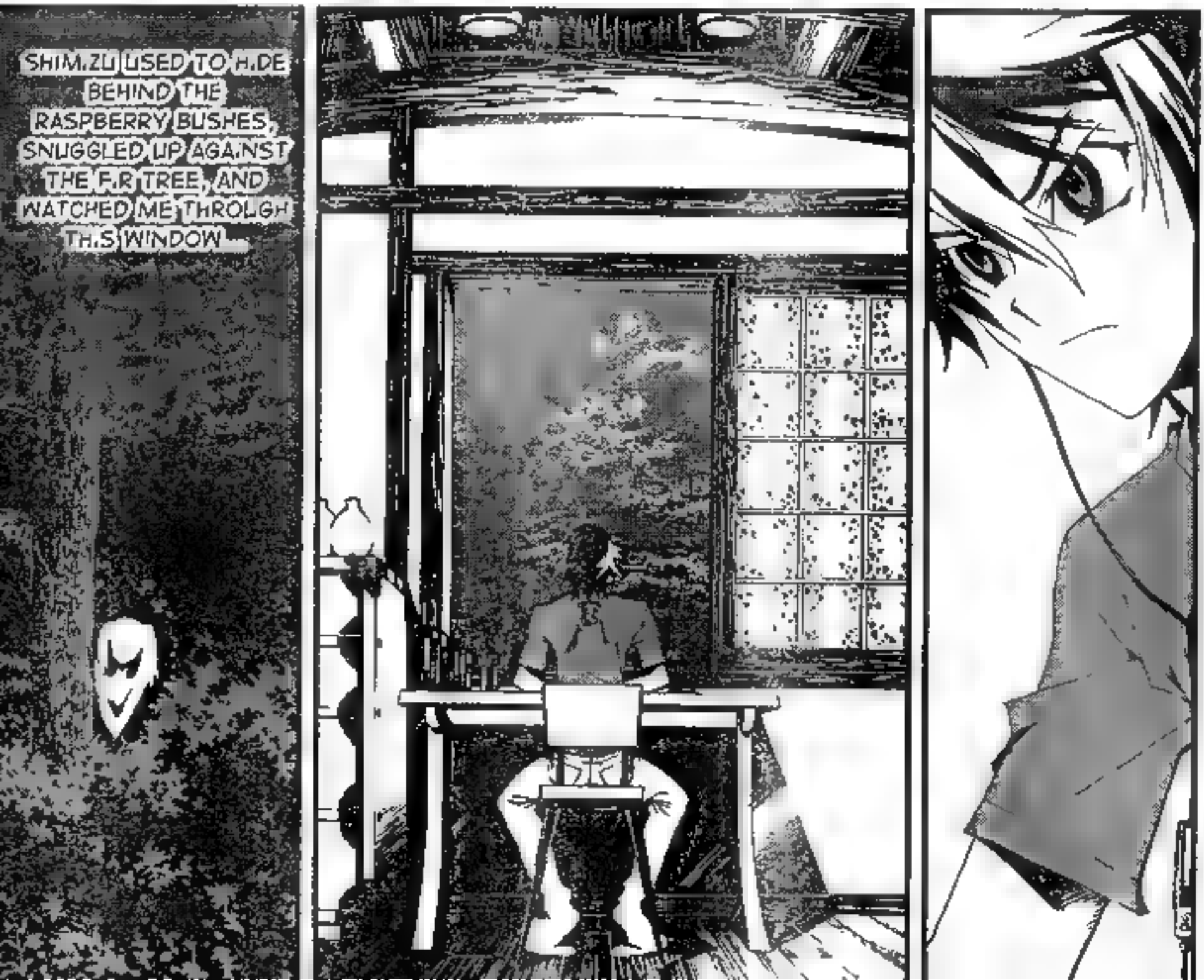
THE ONLY ONE WHO I HAVE NO DOUBTS ABOUT IS MR. GIICHI.

MEGUMI-CHAN, MDM FUKI...

IT'S NOT THE PLAGUE, IS IT?

大安 (TAIAN) MEANS A DAY OF GREAT PEACE, MOST LUCKY DAY





OF COURSE THAT WOULD CREEP ME OUT

OH, GIMME A BREAK

IT'S ALL A MONKEY SHOW.

THEN SOMEDAY, SOMEHOW, I WOULD NOTICE HER AND RETURN HER FEELINGS THAT'S WHAT SHE'D BEEN HOPING FOR

SHE DID ALL THAT SO THAT SHE COULD FULLY ENJOY HER INNOCENT UNREQUITED LOVE LIKE A HERO

THE PARTNER OF THE ILL-FATED HEROINE WHO DIED TOO YOUNG

THE PARTNER OF THE HEROINE IN A SCHOOL DRAMA

THE YOUTH WHO CAME FROM THE [illegible] WITH THE ATTITUDE PROBLEM

?!

EVERYONE IS THE SAME IN THIS VILLAGE

THEY WANT YOU TO SAY THIS THEY WANT YOU TO DO THAT AND, SELFISHLY, THEY PUT YOU INTO CERTAIN ROLES

WAS SOMEONE WATCHING ME

WHAT WAS THAT

IMPOSSIBLE

24th August. Wednesday,
Shakku, Ozaki Hospital

AH! ISH DA-SAN!?

AHH- HELLO, THIS IS OZAKI..

WHAT IS IT? ABOUT THE MATTER I ASKED YOU TO HELP ME WITH?

赤口 (SHAKKU) MEANS BAD LUCK ALL DAY, EXCEPT AT NOON.

10...!?

IT'S 10

.....

Villager File No. 38 Ishida
Public Health Officer

21st August, Gotouda Fuki

11th August, Hirosawa Takatoshi.

It started with the 3 people in Yamami... 1st August, Ookawa Gorou and Murasako Hidemasa. 5th August, Murasako Mieko.

15th August, Shimizu Megumi.

6th August, Gotouda Shuuji.

18th August Oozuka Yasuyuki.

17th August, Yasumori Gichi

23rd August, Shimizu Ryuuji

THAT'S WAY TOO MANY

WHAT ON EARTH IS GOING ON.

Yes...

THEY DIED IN THE NEIGHBORING TOWN, MIZOBE'S PUBLIC HOSPITAL?

THERE ARE PEOPLE I DON'T KNOW THE VILLAGE IS LARGER THAN I THOUGHT

RIGHT

LET'S SEE-

YASUMORI NAO . EH? NAO, DID YOU HURT YOURSELF?

OU!

ISHIDA, LET'S CONTINUE THIS ANOTHER DAY, AT THE TEMPLE...

DOCTOR, THE NEXT PATIENT IS READY

NAO.

!?

!!

I FEEL SLUG-GISH..

MY MOTHER-IN-LAW SAID I HAD TO COME TO THE HOSPITAL..

先勝 (SENSHOU) MEANS GOOD LUCK IN THE MORNING, BAD LUCK IN THE AFTERNOON

5th August
Thursday, Senshō

WHY AM I STILL KEEPING THIS WINDOW SHUT?

WHY?

WHY DOES IT FEEL LIKE SOMEONE IS STILL WATCHING ME----...

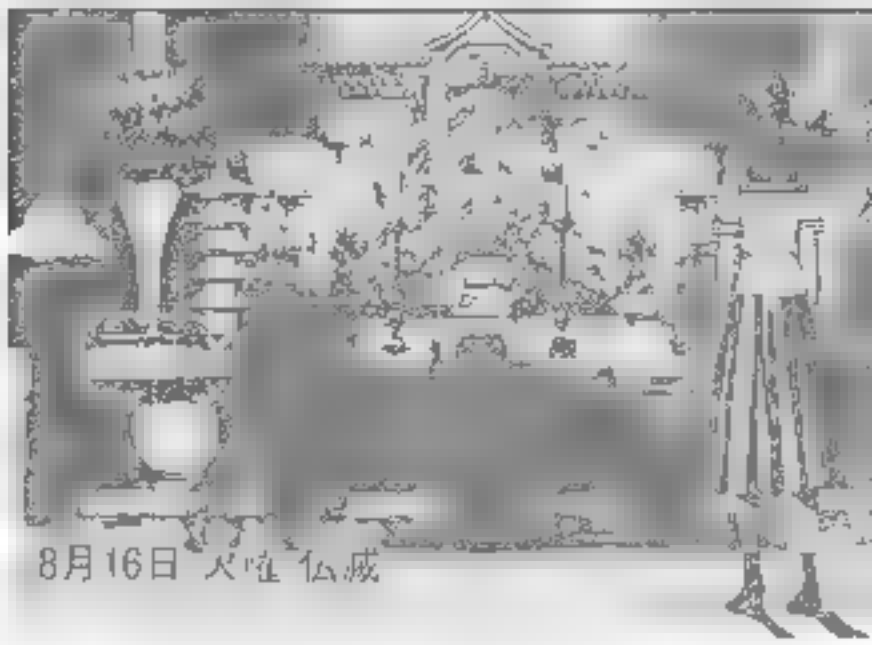
BOOM

SOMEONE IS WATCHING

SHIKI
duet project

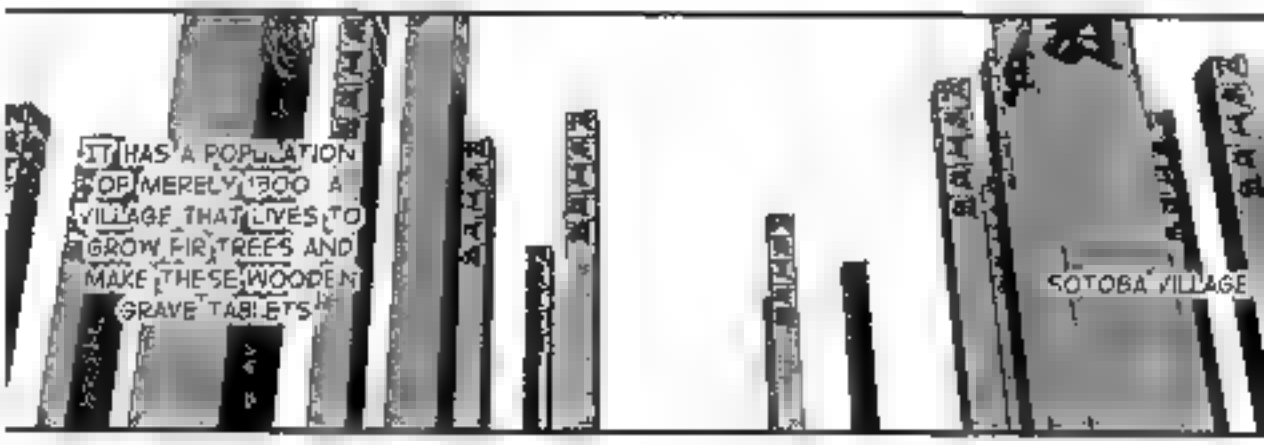
TRANSLATOR NOTES

ALL THE DATES ARE ACCOMPANIED BY A "ROKUYO" WHICH NOTES THE LUCKY AND UNLUCKY DAYS IN THE JAPANESE CALENDAR. THERE'S NO ONE-WORD TRANSLATION FOR MOST OF THESE SO I DECIDED TO LEAVE THEM IN JAPANESE WITH A NOTE TO EXPLAIN WHAT IT MEANS. YOU CAN READ UP ABOUT THEM AT: HTTP://WWW.SEIYAKU.COM/CUSTOMS/ROKUYO.HTML



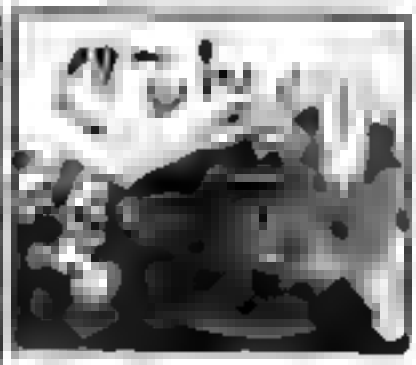
ORIGINAL PUN IN JAPANESE WAS MEGUMI WROTE "HOT" (暑) WRONGLY AS "STATION" (署, AS IN POLICE STATION), BECAUSE THE TWO KANJI ARE VERY SIMILAR. THEN, SHE SAID, "I'M NOT A POLICEMAN!!"

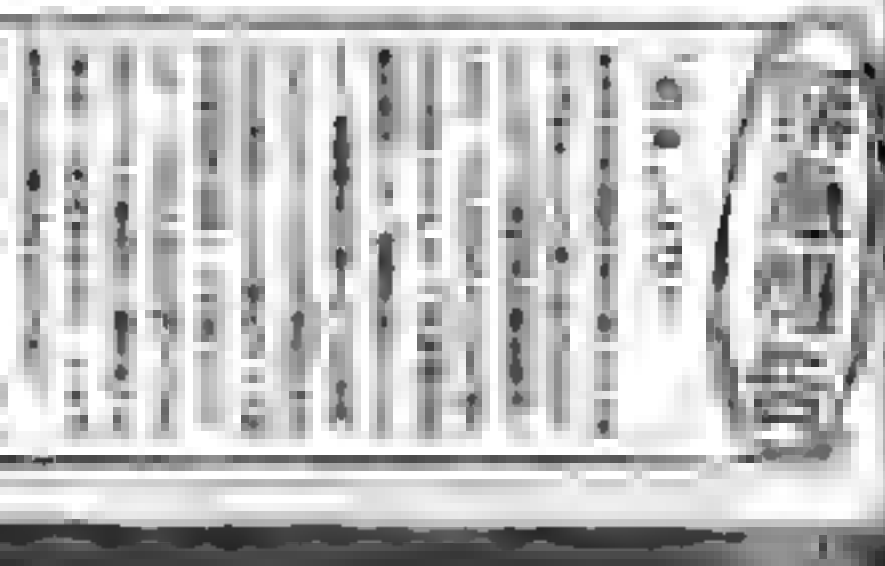
THE NAME OF THE VILLAGE, SOTOBA, LITERALLY MEANS AN "OUTSIDE PLACE". HOWEVER, IN JAPANESE, THE WOODEN GRAVE TABLETS ARE ALSO CALLED 'SOTOBA' (DIFFERENT KANJI).


IT HAS A POPULATION OF MERELY 1300. A VILLAGE THAT LIVES TO GROW FIR TREES AND MAKE THESE WOODEN GRAVE TABLETS.
SOTOBA VILLAGE

屍鬼外場村調査報告書

Report 07





24 August 199X (Tuesday) Shakku

屍鬼 Shiki

T/N: BAD LUCK ALL DAY, EXCEPT AT NOON.

RAIN FALLS ON SOTOBA VILLAGE. AND SOMETHING ELSE-

在所

RING

SIGN: POLICE BOX

RING

RING

RING

LOOK, I WAS A FIRE BRIGADE CHIEF BEFORE, SO I KNOW WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT

IT'S A LOCAL DOWNPOUR YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT

IN THIS KIND OF RAIN, WE'LL HAVE TO KEEP AN EYE ON OMI RIVER SWELLING

Yasumori Tokujirou (No 28)

--THAT'S TRUE. ALL RIGHT.

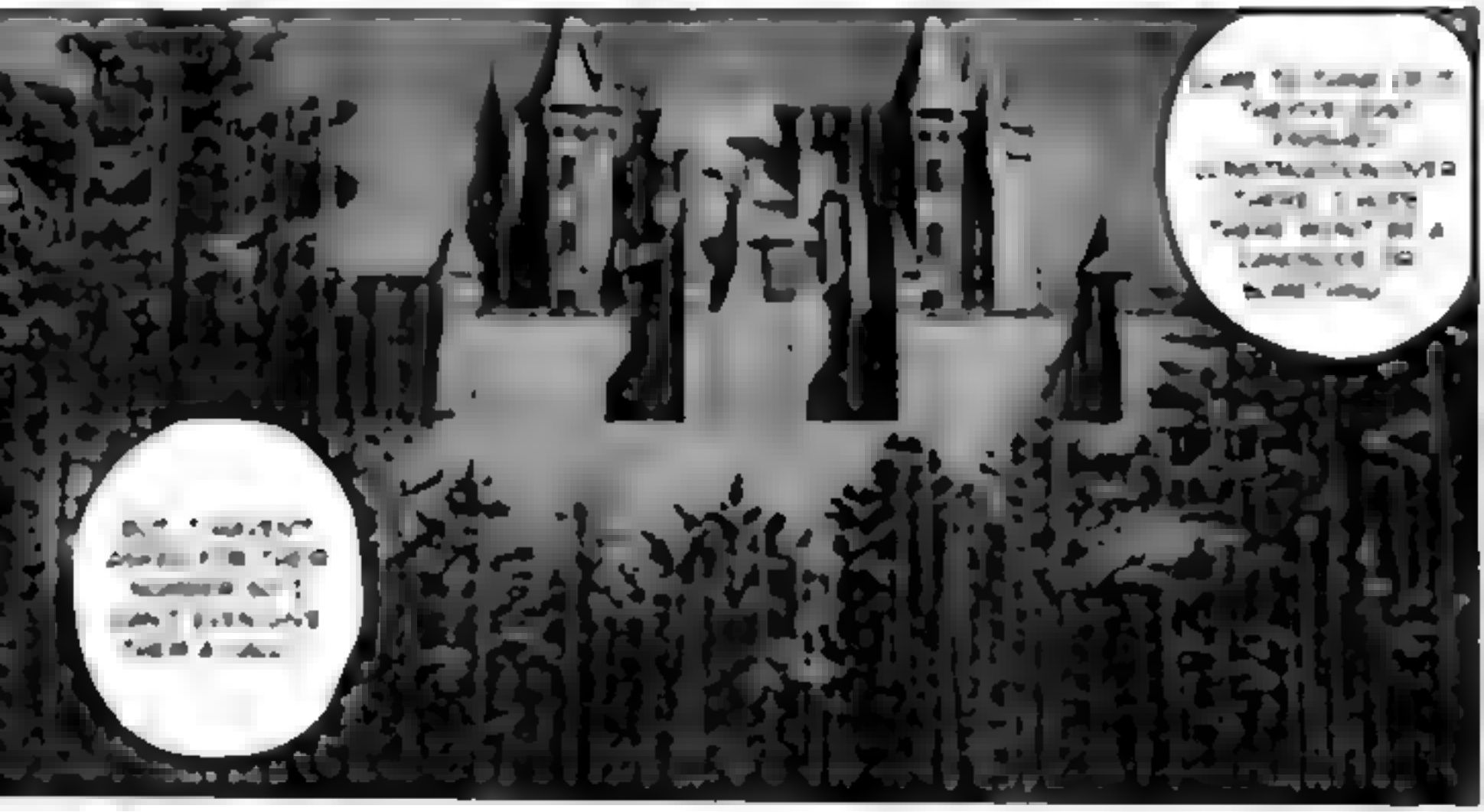
I think we shou d also summon the fire brigade

THEN, I'LL OPEN UP THE STATION NEXT DOOR.

YES, THIS IS SOTOBA POLICE BOX.

AAH, MR. TOKUJIROU?

Policeman Takami (No 18)



屍鬼

Shiki

DEATH IS SUCH A TERRIBLE THING TO INFLICT ON ONESELF.

-DON'T YOU KNOW THAT?-...

原作／小野 不由美　漫画／藤崎 竜

【新潮社「月刊ネクスト」より】

GOOD EVENING

WHY DID 10 VILLAGERS DIE WITHIN SUCH A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME?
SO ABOUT THAT
WHAT IS REALLY GOING ON IN THIS VILLAGE ?

SORRY ABOUT THE TROUBLE. ISHIDA. THANKS FOR COMING
AH, NO

??

FOR NOW, ASSUMING A WORST CASE SCENARIO, I SUSPECT AN EPIDEMIC.

I'VE CONSIDERED ALL SORTS OF THINGS, BUT

IT SPREAD OUT TO THE REST OF THE VILLAGERS FROM THERE, DIDN'T IT?

WE DON'T KNOW WHICH OF THE THREE PEOPLE AT YAMAIRI WAS THE FIRST BUT, THERE'S NO DOUBT THAT'S THE PRIMARY CASE.

WE HAVEN'T CONFIRMED THAT YET

HOWEVER, THE SYMPTOMS ROUGHLY MATCH JP

BUT .

WHAT SORT OF ILLNESS IS IT?

-- EPI-DEMIC?

THAT WAS
HOW IT
ALL
BEGAN
SO
ENIGM

MS. NAO!?

--ACTUALLY, MS. NAO OF YASUMORI CONTRACTORS CAME TO SEE ME FOR A CONSULTATION TODAY

I HAD A FEELING IT WAS VERY SIMILAR TO MEGUMI-CHAN'S CONDITION SO I GAVE HER A COMPLETE CHECK-UP

URINE AND BLOOD ANALYSIS

I TOOK HER HEIGHT, WEIGHT, PULSE, BLOOD PRESSURE, AND TEMPERATURE

BONE MARROW PUNCTURE

ROENTGEN

T/N: RADIATION COUNT

AFTER TODAY IF YOU START FEELING MORE LETHARGIC, OR YOUR CONDITION WORSENS, COME AND SEE ME TOMORROW

GOT IT!?

BUT!!

FOR NOW, I CAN ONLY PRESCRIBE SOME VITAMINS FOR YOU. COME AND SEE ME AGAIN IN THREE DAYS

I THINK IT MAY BE A CASE OF ANEMIA

NOD

MOST LIKELY

MS. NAO, TOO.

--THAT MEANS, THE YASUMORI FAMILY MAY HAVE BEEN INFECTED FROM MR. GICHI?

THIS IS NOT A SMALL MATTER....

THIS IS TERRIBLE

WHETHER IT REALLY IS AN EPIDEMIC OR SOMETHING ELSE UNTIL WE KNOW FOR SURE WE CAN'T AFFORD TO SPREAD PANIC"

IN ANY CASE WE HAVE FAR TOO LITTLE INFORMATION AT THE MOMENT!

WE NEED TO GATHER MORE!

I'LL ALSO LET YOU KNOW IF THERE WERE ANY OTHER DEATH CERTIFICATES SENT TO THE TOWN HALL, OTHER THAN THOSE SIGNED BY YOU"

T-THEN I'LL MAKE SOME LEAFLETS"

IF ANYONE IS SUFFERING FROM A SUMMER FLU OR IS FEELING UNUSUALLY LETHARGIC FROM THE HEAT THEY SHOULD REPORT TO THE HOSPITAL IMMEDIATELY"

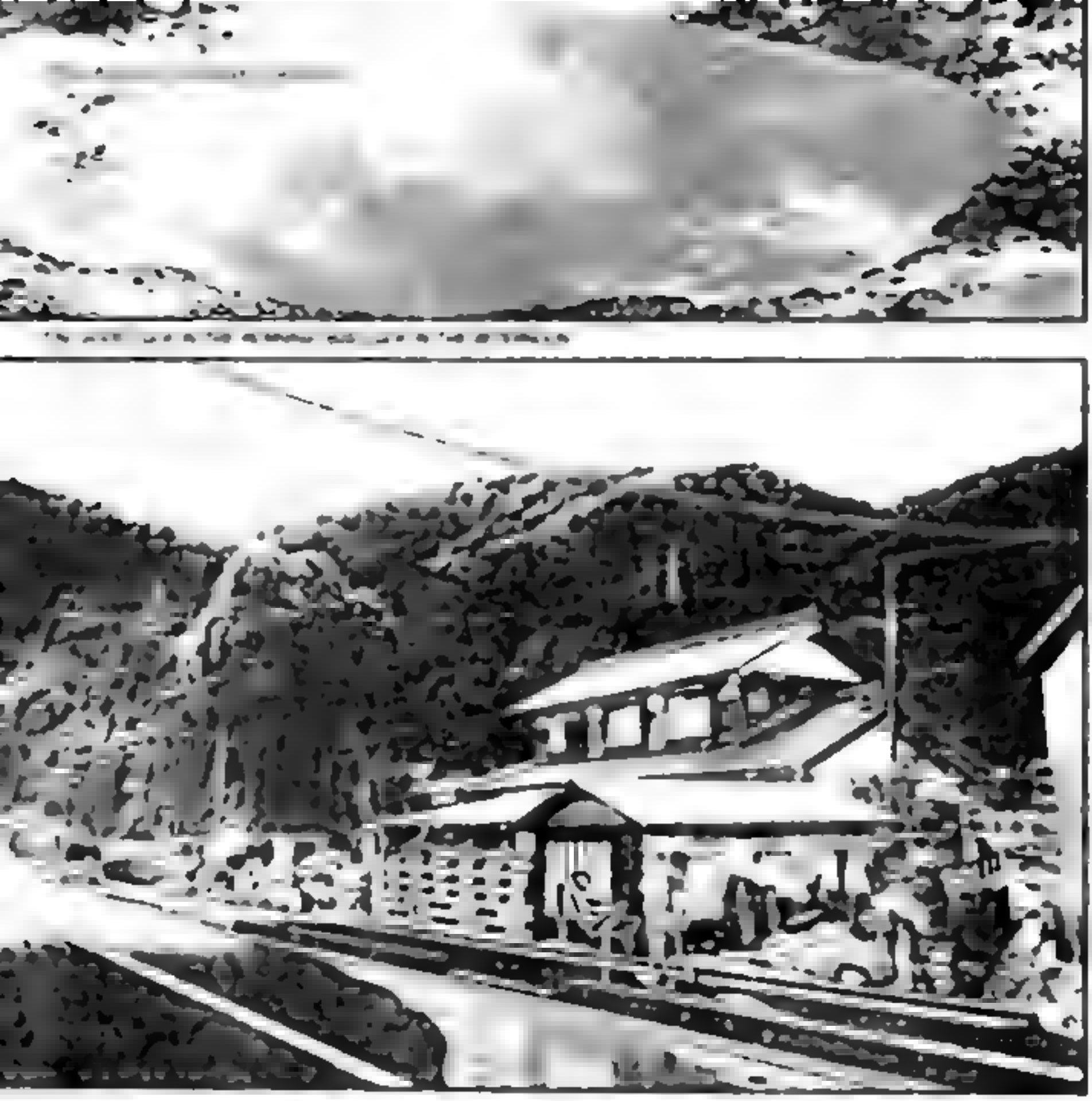
I'LL TALK TO THE BEREAVED FAMILIES AND ASK ABOUT THIS INDIRECTLY

IF WE'RE LUCKY WE MAY BE ABLE TO WORK OUT THE INFECTION ROUTE

I'LL HURRY ON THE SPECIFIC CAUSE OF DEATH!

I WILL FIND WHATEVER IT IS THAT'S RESPONSIBLE FOR KILLING THE PEOPLE OF THIS VILLAGE!!

I WON'T LET THIS THING TRAMPLE ON MY VILLAGE ANY FURTHER!!



70
70

40

OOOI!
NATSUNO~!!!

I NEED TO GO TO SCHOOL TODAY

WAIT, TOORU-CHAN, HAVE YOU GOT YOUR DRIVING LICENSE YET?

IT'S STILL PROVI-SIONAL

RITSU-CHAN IS HERE TO GIVE ME DRIVING LESSONS.

WHERE ARE YOU GOING, ALL DRESSED UP IN YOUR UNIFORM? WE'RE STILL IN THE MIDDLE OF SUMMER BREAK, YOU KNOW-!!!

Village File No 39
Mutou Tooru, 18
Eldest son of Mutou, who works at Ozaki Hospital
Natsuno's best friend

AH. HELLO.

ペコ BOW

HEY THERE

WHY ARE YOU WALKING ON SUCH A HOT DAY?

C'MON, GET IN, GET IN!

BUT IT'S A 3-HOUR WALK FROM THE VILLAGE TO THE HIGH SCHOOL IN MIZOBE, ISN'T IT?

YUP

THE BUSES COME ONLY ONCE EVERY HOUR, SO I THOUGHT I COULD WALK TO THE NEXT BUS STOP

BUT THE BUS PASSED BY BEFORE I GOT THERE.

NAHAHAHAHA. THAT'S HAPPENED TO ME BEFORE TOO

I DIDN'T GET ENOUGH SLEEP LAST NIGHT, SO I'M REALLY EXHAUSTED

TRAINS DON'T EVEN RUN HERE THAT SUCKS BIG TIME.

I JUST COULDN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT GRADUATING AS FAST AS POSSIBLE AND GETTING OUT OF THIS VILLAGE

IT'S NOTHING

HEY, YOU, LOOK IN FRONT!

NOT ENOUGH SLEEP?

HEY! ***STEERING WHEEL!!!***

AFTER ALL THE TROUBLE YOUR PARENTS WENT THROUGH TO MOVE HERE AND GET BACK TO NATURE? THEY'D BE CRYING IF THEY HEARD YOU!

OOH! TAMOTSU~! MASAO~!

BROTHER!!

OH!

Villager File No.41
Murasako Masao (17)

Villager File No.40
Mutou Tamotsu (17)
Toon...'s younger brother

JACKPOT! OI, MASAO, LET'S HITCH A RIDE TOO!

I'LL PASS.

I SAID I'LL PASS!!

IF YOU WANT TO HITCH A RIDE, GET IN YOURSELF! THAT'S FINE WITH ME!!!

EHH? WHY~?

IT'D BE MUCH COOLER IN THE CAR, RIGHT?

WAIT FOR ME, MASAO~!!

ESCAPE

ぁぁぁぁぁ——フィ～

MASAO REALLY HATES NATSUNO.

ALTHOUGH NATSUNO DOESN'T CARE EITHER WAY, RIGHT?

WHAT ..

WHAT'S WITH HIM?

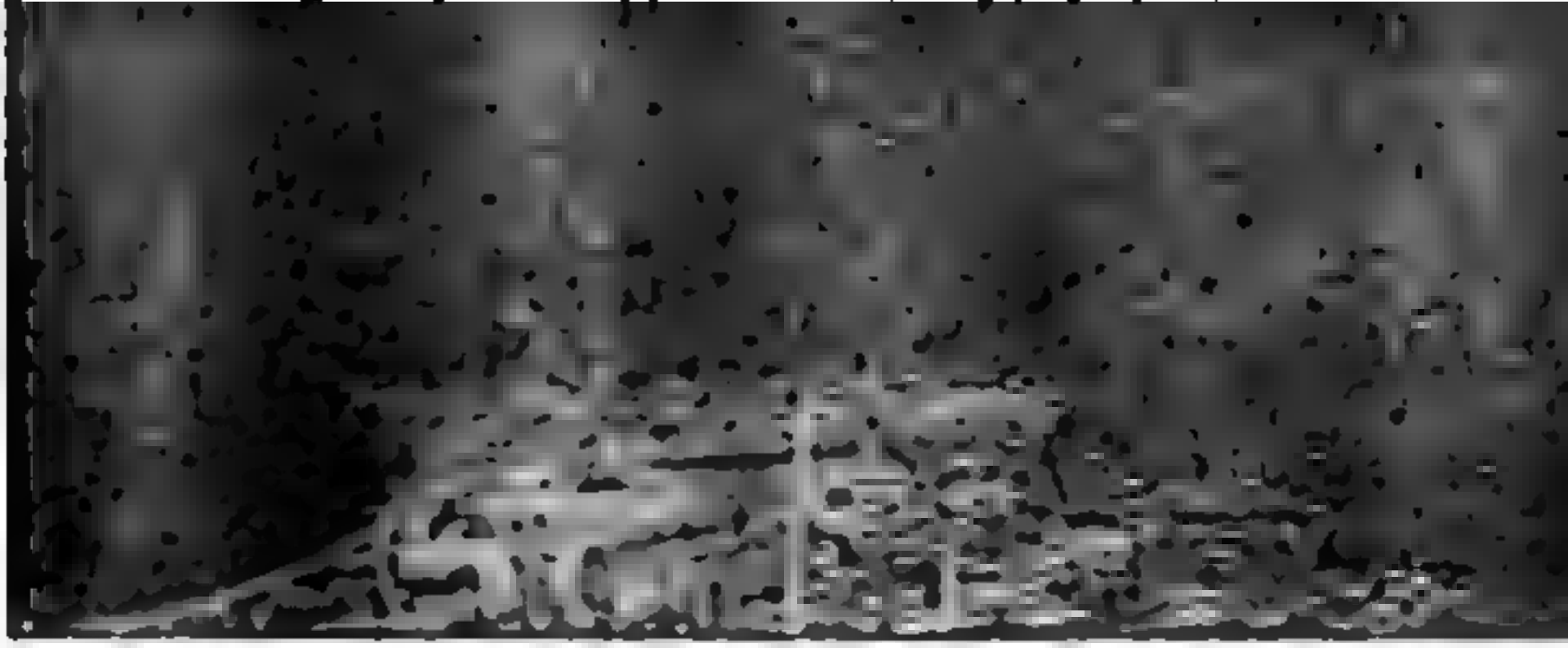
OUCH...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, NATSUNO !!!

.....

I ALREADY TOLD YOU!

DON'T CALL ME BY MY FIRST NAME!!



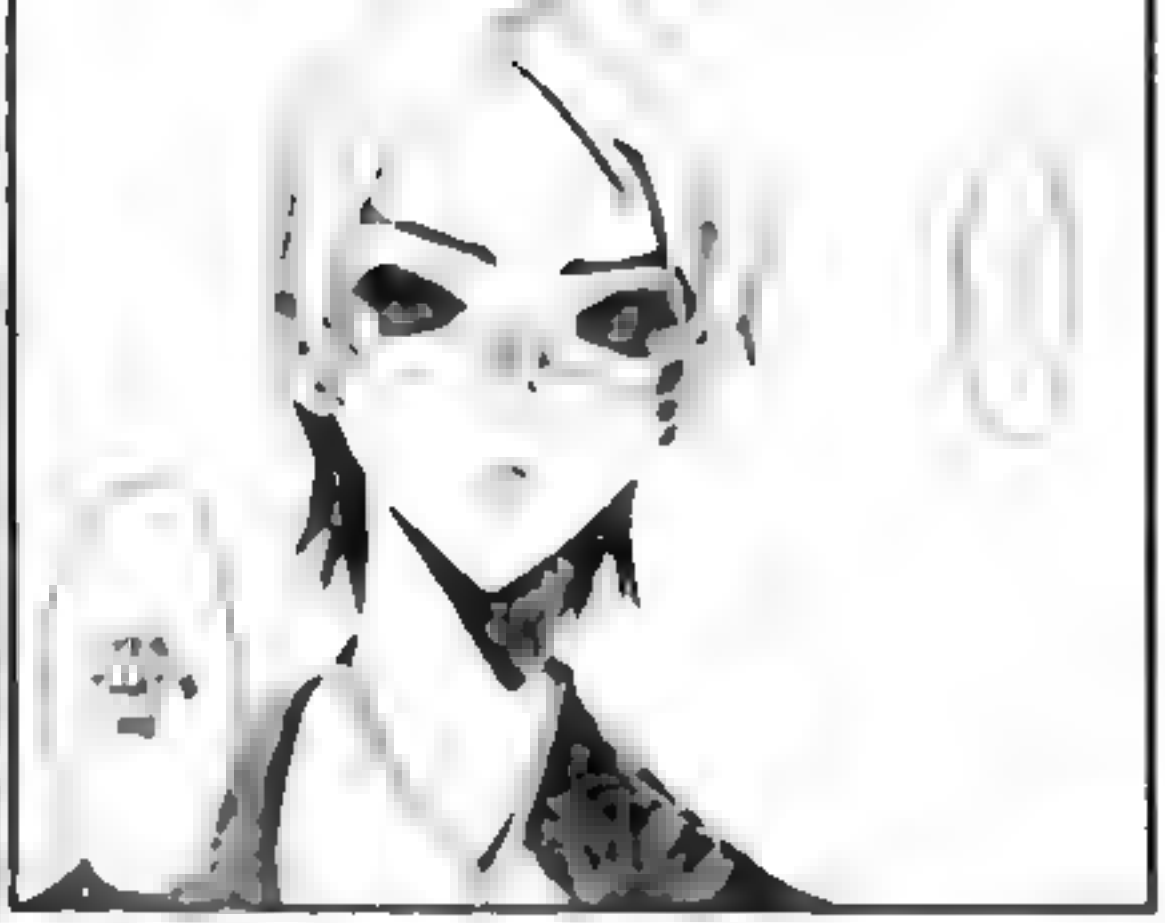
IF DEATH CONTINUES TO COME HERE..

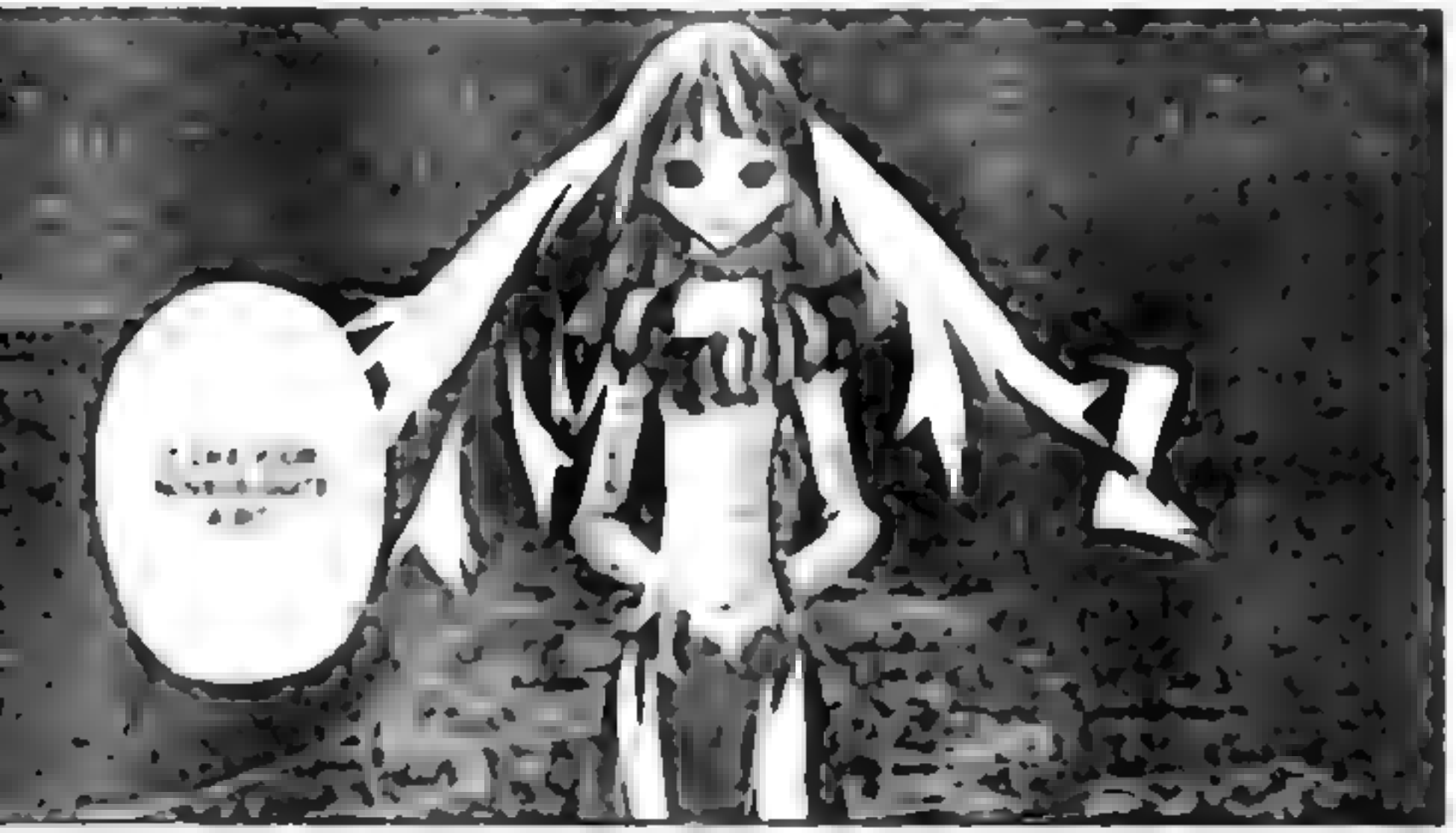
--MISTER MUROI?

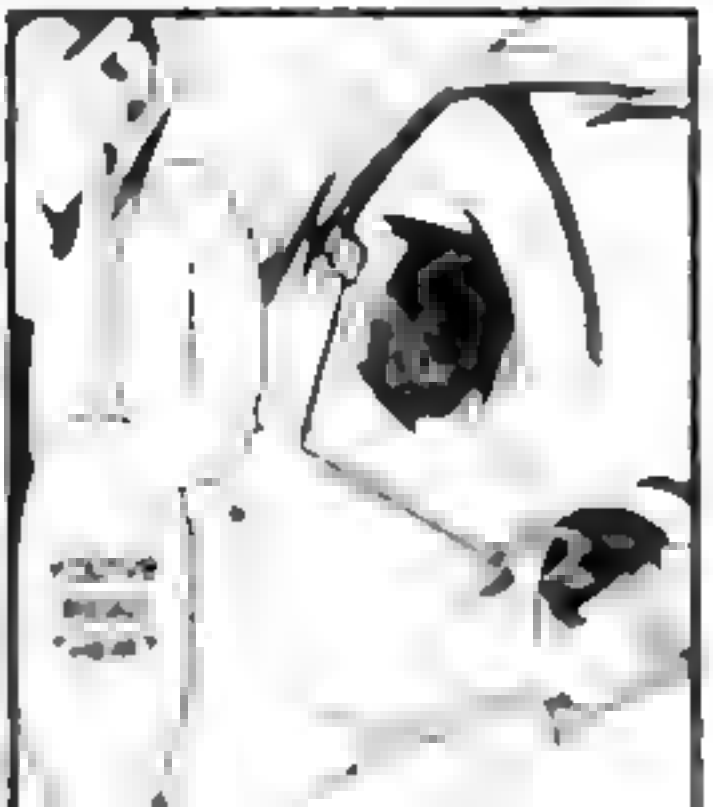
THIS VILLAGE WILL BE DONE FOR.

!?

YOU ARE MR. MUROI SEISHIN, RIGHT?







AMAZING YES, THAT'S ALL OF IT.

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE MET SOMEONE WHO'S READ ALL OF THEM.

I LOVE BOOKS, SO I'LL DO ANYTHING TO GET MY HANDS ON THEM. I'VE READ LOTS.

MY FATHER HAS YOUR BOOKS ON HIS BOOKSHELVES TOO, SO I BORROWED THEM.

THERE ARE SIX LONG NOVELS AND TWO COLLECTIONS OF SHORT STORIES. IF THAT'S ALL THERE IS, I'VE READ ALL OF THEM.

I'VE ALSO READ YOUR ESSAYS WHEN I OCCASIONALLY SPOT THEM IN MAGAZINES

LAST YEAR, YOU WROTE ABOUT THIS VILLAGE, RIGHT?

"THE VILLAGE IS SURROUNDED BY DEATH."

村は死によって囲まれている。深淵に沿って拡けた村を、狭の暗気の　角形に対しあめているのは崖の林だ。

壁の構形は村に似て様よ、しかしながらいくぶん、ずんぐりとしている。村が閉鎖な分物の先なら、崖は大胆だ。村心の先によっくらと立った炎の絶壁。

炎通の村、こころもち斜め十勺に向かってまっすぐに伸ばされた根と構成が作る四角形、崖は単純な計量で、それが複雑ましく変ふのではなく誕生するところだけが、わずかに複雑だ。　誰じて美々とした崖だと思う。

しかしながらこの崖の構林は、村を「死」として囲繞している。それは村の境界線でありこちらとあらちを隔てる境線、林の中はすでに此岸ではなく彼岸だ。

彼岸から村を見下ろす者たちは、四十メートルにも達して日射をあすくせに　その存命は百五十年から、百りと短い。これは誠びる崖だ。誕生が重複する途中に滅れ　滅れることによって次の崖者には住を譲める。

その誠びゆく崖は死者のために育てられ、村を取り巻く山肌に留まっている。村は死々とこの崖材を利用して平均崖を作り、のちには格を作った。村は生まれたち崖から死者のために祭具を作って成り立ってきた。

そして崖の林の中は、まさしく死者の国であり、崖はその墓場なのだった。

村では今も死者を土葬にする。村人はそれぞれが山の　崖に墓所を持ち、そこに仁崖を埋葬する。墓石はない。そこが死者の住居であることを示す角平均質が立つきりだ。死者の四角の　十　四辺、それを通ぎると平均崖を崩して崖を植える。植えてある。死者はすでに山の　崖に帰り、もはや人と縁立を持たない。

死者のための誠びゆく崖、その崖林は、まぎれもなく死者の国だ。　方を崖に囲まれて　村は死の中に孤絶している。

実際のところ、村は拓かれた当初から、村近の山村の中で孤立している。そもそもが崖に目をつけた木重地の集団が移り住んで切り拓いた村、血縁的にも地縁的にも村は周囲と関係を持たない。

そのせいだろう、すべては村の内部で完結しており、村は生きるに際外者の助けを借りない。外の力は、ちょうど村の命を貫いたバイパスのように　村を通り抜けていくだけだ。その道が村よりも大きな町へ、町よりもさらに大きな都市へと繋がっていても、それを降りて崖に囲まれた山村へ立ち寄る者もない以下、やはり村は隔絶されている。

しかしながら　本重崖にこの山村は近年になっても孤絶とは比較的　無縁なままだった。人口は増えもしないかわりに　さして減ることもない。たしかに村のはずれ　最も道路なあたりから少しずつ人家が減ってきてはいるのだが、そのふん村の真に家が増える。老人が多いのは山村の常だが　る人たちが崖の林の中に歩み上っていくと、どこからともなく若者が戻ってくる。

この繰く　しかしながら決して途絶えることのない音を見ると、村はまるで剣のようにも思える。どれほど荒れ果てても、何かの折、ふと思い出して立ち寄る関係の伝神のように　村の命脈は途切れることがない。

たとしたら、関数とした山村のこの助けさは、　剣に通じるものかもしれない。彼岸から彼岸へと架け渡された橋、その片岸、　方を死によって囲まれながら最悪として此岸で、　岸からは孤絶している。

そこで人は死に仕え、死者のために祈る。

――太郎　村は生まれた時から、そのために存在した。

T/N: SORRY, I'M NOT TRANSLATING MUROI'S ESSAY

ONCE I READ IT, I FIGURED OUT THE VILLAGE WHERE THE AUTHOR LIVED EASILY

AND I WAS ABLE TO FIND THE TEMPLE USING YOUR BIOGRAPHY AND A MAP

YOU KNOW QUITE A BIT ABOUT THIS VILLAGE, THEN.

IT WAS AFTER THAT ESSAY WAS PUBLISHED THAT WE DECIDED TO MOVE HERE

I'M SURE THAT MY FATHER THOUGHT THE SAME WHEN HE READ IT

THE VILLAGE IS LIKE A SMALL SHRINE... IT FEELS WONDERFUL

I SUPPOSE SO

YOU'RE A LOT MORE ORDINARY THAT I THOUGHT

I TOO BECAME VERY INTERESTED IN MR. MUROI

YOU MUST BE DISAPPOINTED AT HOW DIFFERENT I AM FROM YOUR IMAGINATION.

--BUT, I CAN ACCEPT THAT

NO, NO

I THOUGHT YOU'D HAVE HORNS OR A TAIL OR SOMETHING

BECAUSE EVERYTHING YOU'VE WRITTEN SOUNDED LIKE A MAN WHO'S BEEN ABANDONED BY GOD.

BECAUSE EVEN THOUGH YOU DON'T HAVE HORNS, YOU DO HAVE A SCAR.

HA!

I'M SUNAKO.

YOU ARE-

SUNAKO-CHAN, YOU.

I HATE THAT!!!

DON'T ADDRESS ME WITH -CHAN!!!

LET ME TE... YOU SOMETHING, MR. MURO!

A PERSON WON'T DIE FROM A SIMPLE CUT ON THE WRIST.

I WAS OUT DRINKING WITH FRIENDS, AND WHEN I GOT HOME, FOR NO REASON, I CUT MY WRIST

I BARELY REMEMBER T-ANY MORE, BUT...

IT HAPPENED SO MANY YEARS AGO.

I WAS STILL A UNIVERSITY STUDENT

THAT'S RIGHT.

IT WON'T KILL YOU.

I PROBABLY KNEW THAT EVEN AS I DID IT.

III 总 手 册

I WANT THEM TO RUN THE TESTS AGAIN. PLEASE CALL MS NAO RIGHT AWAY, AND ASK HER TO COME IN FOR ANOTHER CHECK-UP.

NO- THE TEST RESULTS ARE VERY STRANGE.

DOC-TOR.

IS MS NAO'S CONDITION REALLY BAD?

YES, DOCTOR ...

JUST AS I THOUGHT IT'S THE SAME AS MEGUMI-CHAN --ANEMIA.

.....

THE MORE I THINK ABOUT IT, THE MORE IT RULES OUT ALL POSSIBILITIES. SOMETHING STRANGE IS GOING ON

BUT, SHE'S NOT BLEEDING NOR IS THERE ANY INTERNAL BLEEDING. THE COOMBS TEST IS NEGATIVE. THE BILIRUBIN AND LDH LEVELS IN THE SERUM ARE BOTH NORMAL. THERE ISN'T ANY HEMOLYSIS EITHER

出島予研

NO ABNORMALITY IN THE STRUCTURAL LEVEL. -- INSTEAD, BECAUSE OF THE LARGE AMOUNT OF RED BLOOD CELLS BEING CONSUMED, HEMATOSIS IS EVEN ACCELERATED, ISN'T IT?

RESULTS OF THE MICROSCOPE ANALYSIS OF BLOOD AND BONE MARROW BLOOD - RETICULOCYTE INCREASE NUCLEATED RED BLOOD CELLS PRESENT. BONE MARROW - HYPERPLASIA OF THE ERYTHROBLAST. NO IRREGULAR SHAPES DETECTED

Yasumori Mikiyasu (No 30)

DR. TOSHIO ...

Next day, 26th August (Friday) Tomobiki

T/N: GOOD LUCK ALL DAY, EXCEPT AT NOON.

WHY DIDN'T YOU COME YESTERDAY! I CONTACTED YOU, DIDN'T I!!

EH... NAO DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT THAT ..

MS NAO!!

MS NAO, HOW DO YOU FEEL?

AFTER THAT, TELL DR. SHIMOYAMA TO GET THE ULTRASOUND AND CT SCAN READY!!!
MS YASUYO, BLOOD TEST!!
HER PULSE IS TOO FAST. GO AND GET THE EKG, JUST IN CASE.
AH, YES, SIR!!
V lager File No.42
Hashiguch Yasuyo
BIG BITES...
---HER PULSE IS QUITE FAST.

DR. TOSHIO, WHAT'S WRONG WITH NAO...

DON'T TELL ME SHE'S CONTRACTED SOME TERRIBLE ILLNESS..

NO.

RIGHT NOW, WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE OF A SERIOUS ILLNESS.

THIS GUY... HE HASN'T CHANGED 'AT ALL' SINCE HE WAS A KID

EH?

--ME?

WHAT ABOUT YOU, MIKIYASU?

AHH...

BUT, I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANYONE..

--NO, EVEN IF THERE WERE, YOU MAY HAVE THOUGHT THEY'D JUST CAUGHT THE SUMMER FLU.

IS THERE ANYONE FEELING UNWELL WITH SIMILAR CONDITIONS?

YOU, AND EVERYONE ELSE AT HOME. ...POSSIBLY EVEN THE LITTLE ONES IN THE CONTRACTOR FIRM.

KANEMASA ?

NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, A FEW DAYS AGO, WE MET THE OWNER OF KANEMASA AND HIS WIFE.

HAVE YOU RECEIVED ANY GUESTS WHO WEREN'T FEELING WELL?

ANY... UNUSUAL GUESTS OR ANYTHING?

IT WAS WHEN WE BROUGHT THE KIDS UP TO THE HEAD FAMILY'S SAWMILL TO PLAY.

GUESTS ..

OH MY

YOU SEEM TO BE VERY BUSY!

AH...

ALL OUR RELATIVES HAVE GATHERED HERE FOR THE BON FESTIVAL...

OH, MY.

--THEY'RE QUITE AN AMAZING COUPLE.

HEEEH

WHERE WE WERE LIVING BEFORE, LOTS OF PEOPLE WOULD DISAPPEAR DURING THIS SEASON. IT WAS VERY MYSTERIOUS!

NOW THE PUZZLE HAS BEEN SOLVED. IT'S ALL CLEARED UP!!!

I SEE! CHIZURU, THIS IS WHAT THEY CALL "HOMECOMING" !!

SO, I SEE, SEISHIROU! THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN IT!!

AS YOU CAN SEE, WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF A PARTY, AND EVERYONE'S ALREADY DRUNK, BUT..

IF IT'S ALL RIGHT, WOULD YOU LIKE TO DROP IN FOR A WHILE?

THEN, AFTER THAT ..

IT'S A RARE TIME FOR YOUR WHOLE FAMILY TO GET TOGETHER, AFTER ALL.

OH, THAT WOULDN'T BE RIGHT

EXCUSE ME.

ANOTHER DAY, PERHAPS. WE WOULD LOVE TO VISIT AGAIN.

JUST MENTION THE CONTRACTOR FIRM, AND EVERYONE WILL KNOW!!

YOU HAVE A DAUGHTER TOO, RIGHT?

YOU MUST BRING HER ALONG TOO!!!

THEN, PLEASE VISIT OUR HOUSE TOO!!!

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

WE WILL DEFINITELY VISIT YOU.

IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE!!

WELL,
DR. TOSHIO, YOU MUST HAVE HEARD TOO, RIGHT!!!
カア〃
YES, THAT'S RIGHT.
THEN ?
EHH... AH, NO, THAT'S ALL.
.....
--NO, WELL, IT DOESN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH KANEMASA, THEN.
THEN...
THEN, THAT'S QUITE DANGEROUS, ISN'T IT?
.....
FINALLY, IN THE MIDST OF SORTING OUT THE RESULTS, I THOUGHT IT COULD BE ANEMIA... BUT, THERE ARE DIFFERENT TYPES OF ANEMIA TOO.
WHEN MS NAO CAME TO SEE ME THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY, I RAN VARIOUS TESTS.

SMILE

WELL, UNTIL WE KNOW THE NAME OF THE ILLNESS FOR SURE, WE CAN'T BE TOO CARELESS!

BUT THE YOUNG MISTRESS OF THE CONTRACTOR FIRM IS PROBABLY UNDER A LOT OF STRESS AT THE MOMENT, AND THAT CAN CAUSE SERIOUS PROBLEMS.

WHAT ..

BUT, WE CAN'T DO A BLOOD TEST AGAIN AND A PROPER CT SCAN HERE, SO WE'LL HAVE TO MOVE HER TO A PUBLIC HOSPITAL.

HAA OK. RIGHT

IN THAT CASE, I'LL WRITE A REFERRAL TO THE UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

I'M SORRY, MIKIYASU

MS NAO CAN NO LONGER BE SAVED.

clench

28th August (Sunday) Butsumetsu

T/N: UNLUCKY ALL DAY

Same night
Mutou house

HAVE YOU HEARD?! TOORU-CHAN!!

MADAM NAO OF THE CONTRACTOR FIRM HAS...

YO, MASAO.

HE'S HERE, TOO.

SHIMIZU IS DEAD TOO!

DON'T YOU THINK THERE'S SOME WEIRD DISEASE SPREADING AROUND?

WHAT ABOUT MADAM NAO?

OH, RIGHT!

SHE PASSED AWAY!!!

EHH...

SHE'S NOT THAT OLD, IS SHE?

YEAH! BUT, TODAY IS THE FUNERAL AND BURIAL!!

SPEAKING OF SHIMIZU...

NATSUNO, YOU'RE RATHER COLD-HEARTED, HUH!

YOU REJECTED SOMETHING SHIMIZU LEFT BEHIND FOR YOU, DIDN'T YOU?

YOU HAVE NO CONSIDERATION WHATSOEVER, OR MAYBE YOU EVEN LACK EMOTIONS?

HOW WORRYING

NORMALLY, WHEN SOMEONE SO YOUNG DIES, NOBODY WOULD REJECT SOMETHING THE POOR CHILD LEFT BEHIND, RIGHT?

WE COULD ALSO BE DEAD TOMORROW, FOR ALL WE KNOW.

SO WHAT IF SHE WAS YOUNG!

ジャンプSQ.
毎月4日、
キミは真の漫画に出会
ジャンプSQ.

REALLY ?

IT'S JUST A MATTER OF PROBABILITIES

WE CAN'T DIE JUST LIKE THAT!!

I BELIEVE THAT YOU SHOULD LIVE YOUR LIFE IN A WAY THAT ASSURES YOU HAVE NO REGRETS IN DEATH.

WOULDN'T YOU HAVE LOTS OF REGRETS?

HUH. BUT, WHAT IF YOU DIED TOMORROW, HUH?

ALL THAT'S LEFT IS TO BECOME PART OF THE WILDERNESS, DUST TO DUST.

IF I'M DEAD, WHETHER I'M FINE WITH IT OR NOT, I WOULDN'T KNOW

THEN IF PEOPLE DISREPECTED YOUR DEATH, YOU'D BE HAPPY ABOUT IT!?

SHE MIGHT HATE YOU SO MUCH SHE'LL COME BACK AND VISIT YOU!!!

NO WAY! SHIMIZU MUST BE CRYING IN HER GRAVE NOW!!!

.....

OH, GROW UP.

THAT'S SO UNORIGINAL.

WHY YOU!! YOU'RE JUST AN OUTSIDER!!!

AHH--- THAT'S QUITE ENOUGH, MASAO!

U-~~N, HE DOES APPEAR COLD-HEART -ED, YES

BUT, HE SPEAKS WELL AND HE'S REMAINED COMPLETELY CALM AND IMPARTIAL, HASN'T HE?

WHY ARE YOU HELPING THIS GUY, TOORU-CHAN!!!

HE'S THE ONE AT FAULT!!!

EVEN TOORU-CHAN IS ON HIS SIDE?

I'M GOING HOME!!!

NATSU-NO. .

ALTHOUGH YOU'RE YOUNGER THAN HIM, YOU HAVE A QUICKER WIT COULDN'T YOU BE A LITTLE NICER...

.....

HUH?

HEY, NO, THAT'S MY BED!

CALL MY PARENTS

I CAN'T SLEEP IN MY HOUSE.

.....

I'M SLEEPING HERE TONIGHT ..

AH, WELL

A SUMMER FLU SEEMS TO BE GOING AROUND.

AT LEAST COVER YOURSELF PROPERLY.

I WONDER IF THERE'S SOMETHING AT HIS HOUSE

WELL, I'LL LET HIM SLEEP PEACEFULLY HERE TONIGHT...

I'LL GO BUY SOME JUICE.

MY THROAT IS FEELING KIND OF DRY.

Soft Drinks
&
COFFEE
カフェ・オーレ

ポ
コロ コロ
コトン
コトン

UWAAH!!!

YAH!?

WHAT'S THE MATTER?

I CAN'T REACH IT~!!!

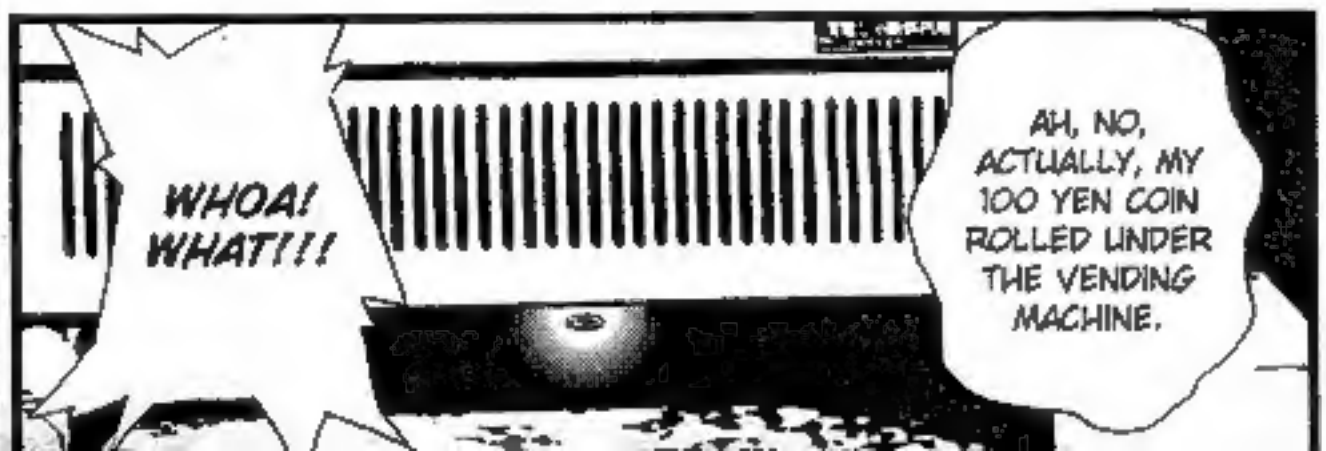
I DROPPED MY 100 YEN!!!

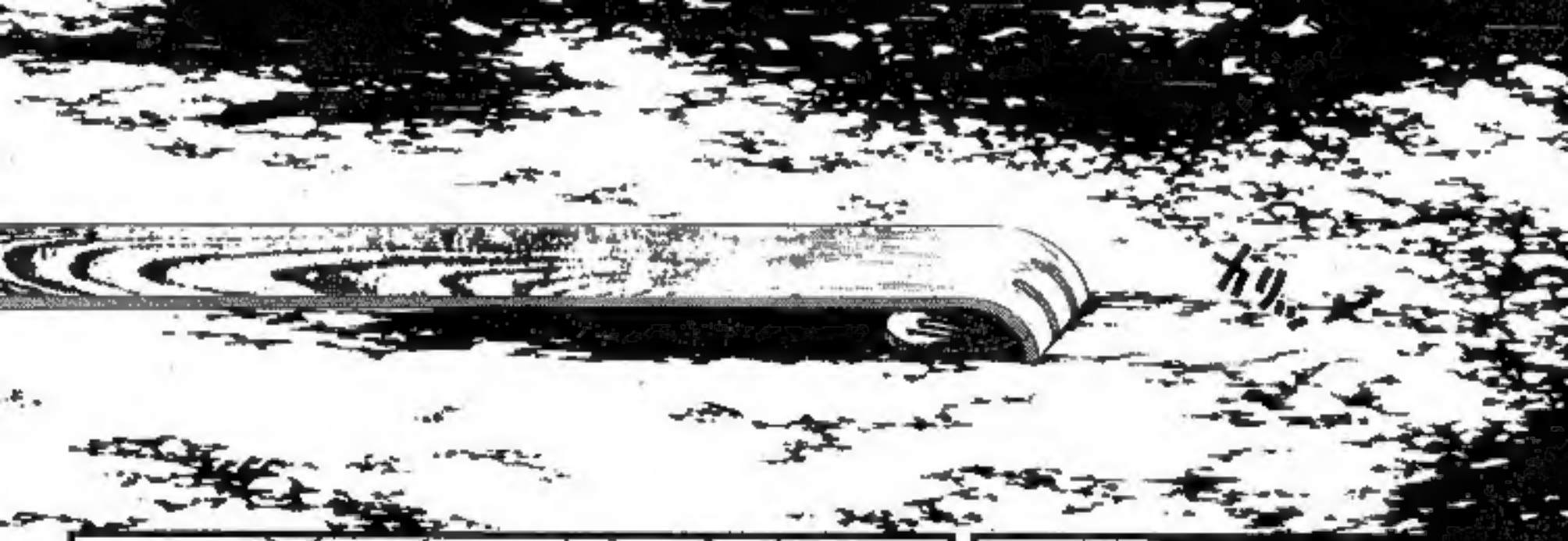
Mysterie

YAH!
I JUST MOVED HERE. MY NAME IS TATSUMI.
WHO ARE YOU?
.....

ACTUALLY, I HAPPEN TO HAVE A BACK-SCRATCHER WITH ME!!!
OOOH HH!!!

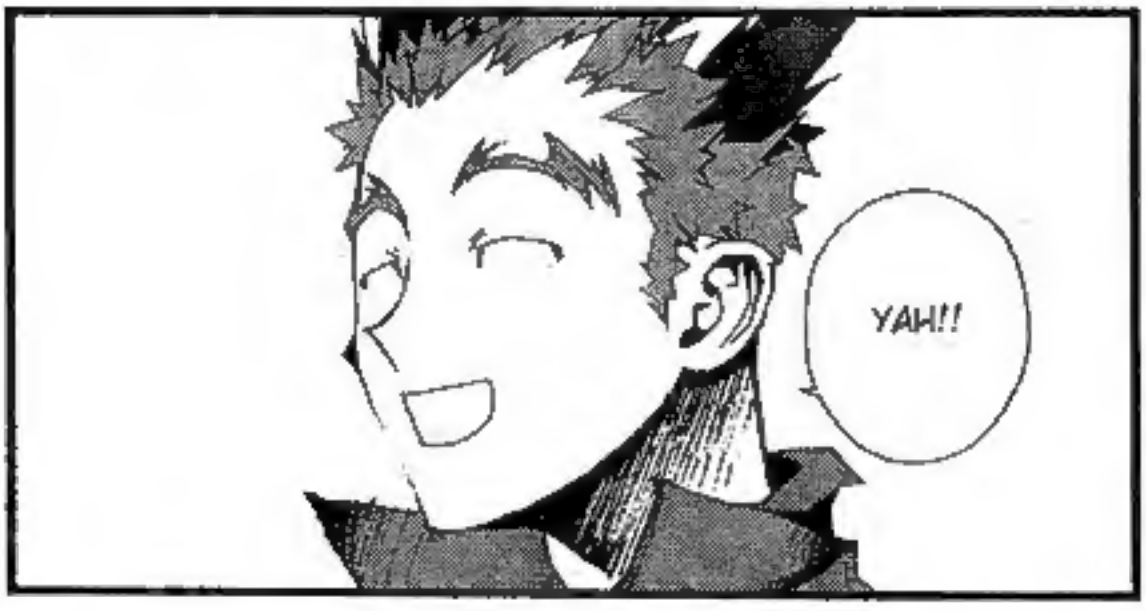
AHH! FROM KANEMASA!
YAH!!! THAT'S RIGHT, KANEMASA!!!
ハオラ

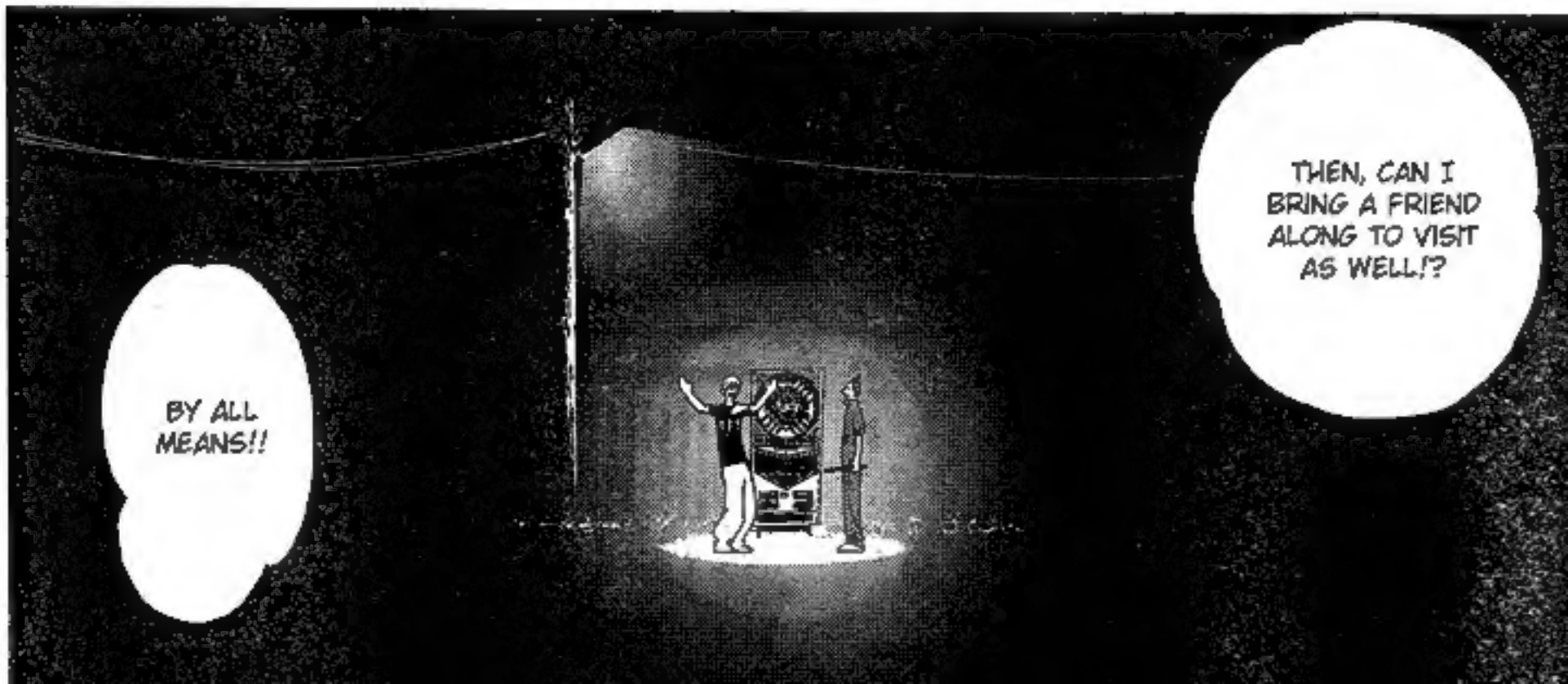

WHOA! WHAT!!!
AH, NO, ACTUALLY, MY 100 YEN COIN ROLLED UNDER THE VENDING MACHINE.


カリ…

YOU MUST COME OVER AND PLAY SOME TIME!!
I'M CALLED MUTOU!
I LIVE IN THAT HOUSE OVER THERE.

AHH, THANK YOU! THAT WAS A GREAT HELP!!
ガコーン
COFFEE
カフェ・オーレ

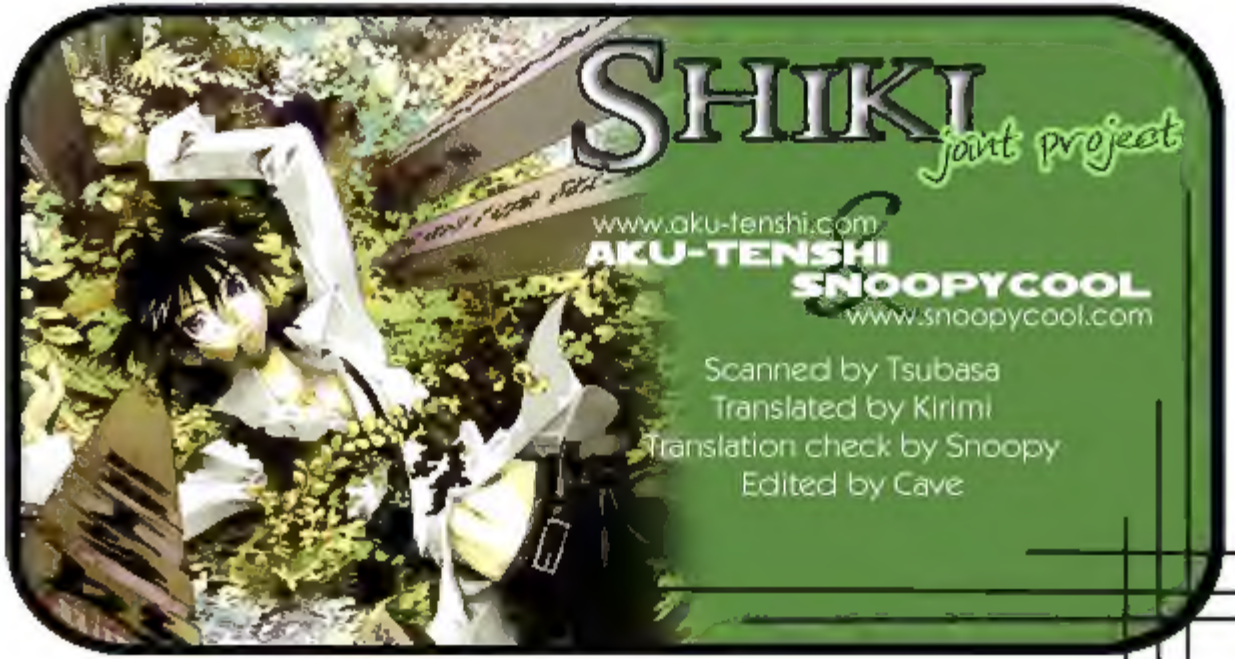

YAH!!


BY ALL MEANS!!
THEN, CAN I BRING A FRIEND ALONG TO VISIT AS WELL!?

I'LL DEFINITELY COME---...

I'M REALLY PLEASED TO MEET YOU.

Shi-ki ---------- To be continued in Issue #04 (on sale 4th March)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